

NFL
Older players prove league can still be one for the aged
Back page



EUROPE
Army ranges need upgrades to meet new training standards
Page 5

NATION
East Coast braces for Hurricane Dorian as Bahamas are battered
Page 8

Troops of future could turn to eye injections to see in the dark » Page 3

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JOHN LUKE MCGOVERN/U.S. Navy

Sailors and Marines aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer run during a Labor Day 5K held Sunday on the flight deck.

Fighting FAT

Navy leads the way as obesity rates rise across services

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The Navy was the most obese and the Marine Corps was by far the least, but the overall rate across the military continued a steady increase, a Defense Department study found.

Marines, meanwhile, were hampered most by back and knee injuries, said the Health of the DOD Force report, which also looked at the services' rates of injury, sleep disorders

and behavioral disorders.

More than 17% of military personnel were considered obese across the DOD, up from less than 16% four years earlier, said the report, published in the August edition of the military's Medical Surveillance Monthly Report.

For the Navy, the rate was 22%, compared with 8.3% of Marines. The Army's rate matched the overall average and the Air Force was slightly higher at about 18%.

SEE OBESITY ON PAGE 6

Irate Afghans set fires in protest after Kabul attack

By RAHIM FAIEZ
AND CARA ANNA
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban on Tuesday defended their suicide bombing against an international compound in the Afghan capital that killed at least 16 civilians and wounded 119 people just hours after a U.S. envoy said he and the militant group had reached a deal "in principle" to end America's longest war.

Angry Kabul residents whose homes were shredded in the explosion climbed over the buckled blast wall and set part of the compound, a frequent target of the militants, on fire. Thick smoke rose from the Green Village, home to several foreign organizations and guesthouses, whose location has become a peril to nearby local residents as well.

"People were screaming and saying, 'My children are trapped in the rubble,'" one witness, Faiz Ahmad, said. A large crater was left in the street.

The Taliban continue such attacks even as a U.S. envoy says the deal with the insurgents needs only the approval of President Donald Trump to become a reality.

SEE ATTACK ON PAGE 2



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Smoke rises a day after a Taliban suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday.

OBESITY RATES
ACROSS THE
MILITARY



NAVY
22%



AIR FORCE
18%



ARMY
17%



MARINES
8.3%

WAR ON TERRORISM

Attack: Shaken Kabul residents question whether Taliban will respect any deal

FROM FRONT PAGE

The accord would include a troop withdrawal that the Taliban already portray as their victory.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told The Associated Press that "we understand that peace talks are going on ... but they must also understand that we are not weak and if we enter into talks ... we enter from a strong position."

He said the attack was a response to raids by U.S. and Afghan forces on civilians across the country. While he acknowledged there should be less harm to civilians, he said they shouldn't live near such an important foreign compound.

Questions are growing among some in Washington about the dangers of trusting the Taliban to make peace.

On Tuesday, several former U.S. ambassadors to Afghanistan warned in a joint statement published by the Atlantic Council that "it is not clear whether peace is possible," saying the Taliban have "made it clear that the war will go on against the Afghan government."

A full U.S. troop withdrawal that moves too quickly and without requiring the Taliban to meet conditions such as reducing violence could lead the militant group to avoid making compromises with other Afghans, the former envoys warned. Civil war could follow and give al-Qaida and the local Islamic State affiliate space to grow, they said. "All of this could prove catastrophic for U.S. national security," they said.

The attack occurred just hours after U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad briefed the Afghan government on an agreement "in principle" with the Taliban that would see



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Smoke billows from the Green Village, home to several international organizations and guesthouses, in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. Angry residents climbed into the compound and set part of it on fire.

5,000 U.S. troops withdraw from five bases in the country within 135 days of a final deal on ending nearly 18 years of fighting. Between 14,000 and 13,000 troops are currently in the country.

Hours before Monday's attack, Khalilzad showed a draft deal to the Afghan president after declaring that they are "at the threshold of an agreement" following the end of the ninth round of U.S.-Taliban talks in Qatar.

Khalilzad has not commented publicly since the blast, which

"They should realize that they can't stop the Taliban. Hopefully, they must understand that by now."

Zabihullah Mujahid
Taliban spokesman

rocked Kabul as many residents watched him speak in a nation-

ally televised interview about the deal and Afghanistan's future.

Shaken Kabul residents questioned whether the Taliban will respect any agreement, especially after foreign troops withdraw. "This what the Taliban are up to in Afghanistan; totally committed to total destruction. Can they be trusted!?" presidential spokesman Sedig Seddighi tweeted.

The Taliban want all of the some 20,000 U.S. and NATO troops out of Afghanistan immediately, while the U.S. seeks a

withdrawal in phases that would depend on the Taliban meeting certain conditions such as a reduction in violence.

Attacks have surged in recent months, including Taliban assaults on two provincial capitals over the weekend, as the group also seeks to strengthen its negotiating position with the Afghan government in the even more challenging intra-Afghan talks that are meant to follow a U.S.-Taliban deal. The Taliban have rejected talking with the government so far, dismissing it as a U.S. puppet.

Some analysts also have warned that some factions of the Taliban might be expressing displeasure with the U.S. deal, though Taliban political leaders at the talks in Qatar have insisted that their tens of thousands of fighters would respect whatever agreement is reached.

The militant group is at its strongest since the U.S.-led invasion to topple its government after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S.

The United Nations and others say civilians are suffering, often caught in the cross-fire as government forces, backed by the U.S., pursue the militants with airstrikes and raids. Afghanistan was the world's deadliest conflict in 2018.

The Taliban spokesman, Mujahid, said that whenever there is a reduction of violence in Afghan cities, the government asserts that the militant group is no longer able to carry out attacks because of stronger Afghan security forces.

"They should realize that they can't stop the Taliban," Mujahid said. "Hopefully, they must understand that by now."

TODAY

IN STRIPES

American Roundup	17
Business	21
Classified	19, 23
Comics	22
Crossword	22
Faces	18
Opinion	20
Sports	24-32
Weather	21

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MILITARY

Future troops may prefer injections to night-vision goggles

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Nanoparticle injections could give warriors the power to see in the dark without the bulky goggles worn by today's troops during nighttime operations, according to an Arizona State University technology expert.

The process is explained in a paper published in February by researchers from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Mass., and the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei.

Nanoparticles that convert near-infrared light into visible light were injected into the eyes of mice, allowing them to see in the dark, the researchers wrote in a summary of their work.

They tested their process by training mice to swim through a maze following triangular signs. Mice injected with the nanopar-

ticles were able to find their way out of the maze in the dark, the researchers said.

The research was a collaboration between Xue Tian, a Hefei-based vision physiology expert, and Gang Han, a Worcester-based nanoparticle expert.

"I definitely think it will work in humans," Xue said, according to Science magazine.

The scientists found that the nanoparticles bound tightly to photoreceptors in the eyes of the mice and stayed in place for up to 10 weeks with no obvious lasting side effects, the magazine reported.

Nanoparticles would have an advantage over other night-vision technology if they could be safely injected into soldiers, Arizona State University engineering professor Braden Allenby said in an email Friday.

"This might be a way to equip warriors with night vision di-



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

An American soldier is photographed through a night-vision goggle lens during a raid in Baghdad in November 2007. Researchers are studying nanoparticle injections they say might allow soldiers to see in the dark without the cumbersome goggles.

rectly, and because it is temporary, it might be less risky than permanent treatments such as genetically engineering warriors' optical systems," he said.

Nanoparticles might be designed to enable perception of radiation in other wavelengths,

giving inspectors and customs officials the power to see smuggled radioactive materials, Allenby said.

Members of a military unit might be equipped with different visual capabilities, he said, adding: "It will be a while before

warriors are getting this treatment because there needs to be a lot of work to make sure it is safe for deployment and works as advertised with humans in the field."

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Court allows reservists' housing allowance suit to proceed

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A U.S. federal court has denied an Army motion to dismiss a lawsuit by reservists that they were wrongly denied housing allowances and then improperly subjected to criminal investigation, marking the latest chapter in a long-running battle between soldiers and the service.

The U.S. Court of Federal Claims in a ruling last week said the case must move forward but that, for now, the proper venue to settle the dispute is the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records.

The board provides "an opportunity to grant plaintiffs the relief they are seeking — to correct their military personnel records and award payments resulting from such corrections if warranted," Senior Judge Mary Ellen Coster Williams wrote in an Aug. 29 decision.

The court's decision was welcomed by the reservists, whose battle with the Army began three years ago.

The reservists said they lawfully received dual housing allowances — one for their homes of record and one for off-base housing they were ordered to live in while on assignment in Europe. They received both allowances to make up for not being able to work in civilian jobs that pay their rents and mortgages.

The dual allowance payments ended abruptly as scores of soldiers were accused of fraudulently receiving payments.

The federal ruling is "a big victory because it means that my clients will either be getting relief from the Army Board for Corrections of Military Records or, at the very least, they will get their day in court to have a federal judge rule on the merits of the issue," said Patrick Hughes, an attorney with Patriots Law Group.

For the reservists, there was initial concern about the ABCMR taking control of the case because the board would "likely seek advisory opinions from the same people who have already misinterpreted the Army's legal requirements to date," the complaint stated.



Gulley

However, because the court has retained overall jurisdiction, if the reservists are dissatisfied with any part or the Army board's decision they can still take the issue up in court, Hughes said.

"Also, following the ABCMR's review, we'll seek to have the matter expanded to cover all of those reservists who were impacted by this issue," Hughes said. "So

we are not done in court by any stretch."

The Army has repeatedly declined to comment on the case, citing ongoing litigation.

The Army hasn't said how many people have been targeted, but the federal complaint says as many as 350 could be affected.

"While we have been waiting on the court's decision here, many more reservists have contacted us about wanting to join this lawsuit," said Hughes, a former Air Force lawyer.

Hughes said he believes many reservists have accepted the Army's decision to deny them their entitlements as "an unfortunate cost of doing business" or because they fear reprisals.

"While my clients have the same worries, they're unwilling to give in on something that has caused them and all the others affected a tremendous financial hardship," Hughes said.

Retired Army Col. Richard

Gulley, who left the reserves more than two years ago, said the Army continues to target him in connection with the housing allowance dispute.

Gulley, a former deputy chief of staff at U.S. Africa Command who retired in 2017, was under criminal investigation in connection with accusations that he wrongly received two housing allowances.

The Army never prosecuted, but the ramifications linger as the service seeks more than \$100,000 in past housing payments.

Gulley said his retirement pay, which he expected to begin receiving in August, is being withheld because the Army put a Grade Determination Review Board memorandum in his records. The review has yet to be completed.

"This is harassment," Gulley said.

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Renovations to Air Force Academy's Cadet Field House underway

The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

The Air Force's Cadet Field House is getting a spruce.

The building, which houses the indoor track, basketball arena and ice hockey rink, is a maze of scaffolding and building materials. The first phase of a three-part, six-year, \$115 million project is underway.

There's a new scoreboard at center ice

as part of Phase II and a new track and basketball court in Phase III. The 51-year-old arena is in the midst of its first major renovation.

With classes in session and regular season hockey barely more than a month away, the building is still in use.

The offices of hockey coach Frank Serrento and men's basketball coach Dave Pilipovich have been temporarily relocat-

ed to trailers near the tennis courts.

Sixty-five to 70% of the work must be completed by Oct. 1. Pilipovich will get his old digs back first.

This summer, workers kept going even as thousands of sports campers came through. A three-day electrical shutdown necessitated more than 700 man hours, according to Weston Marsh, superintendent for Perini Management Services.

"We communicate heavily with these guys, and they jump through hoops because they know what we're going through, and we do what we can to help them out too," Marsh said.

Through all the noise, dust and disruption, David Miller, associate athletic director for support, said it's "one of the better relationships" of its kind he's had in his career.

PACIFIC

New police force to defend Japan's southern islands

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan plans to task a new police force with defending a southern island chain claimed by both Japan and China.

The news was first reported Monday by Japan public broadcaster NHK, which cited police sources. The Okinawa-based law enforcement unit will be trained in border security tactics and deployed in the next Japanese fiscal year, which begins in April.

The move marks the first time Japanese police will be called to respond to territorial incursions near the Senkaku islands. The uninhabited, resource-rich chain between Okinawa and Taiwan is controlled by Japan but claimed by Taiwan and China, which refers to them as Diaoyu.

The Senkakus have long been a point of contention between China and Japan and the scene of countless disputes in the air and at sea, with Chinese ships, submarines and aircraft buzzing Japan's contiguous zone just outside its territorial waters.

The National Police Agency's strengthening and repositioning of forces in the region follows similar actions by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Japan Coast Guard, the NHK report said.

"The National Police Agency believes that there should be some police expertise to respond to [incursions] and they decided to place a unit in Okinawa," the report said. "The [unit's] members will be carrying sub-machine guns and are highly trained in case the trespassers are armed."

Details of the new police unit are scant. The Japan Coast Guard has traditionally served as a first responder to any territorial incursions in the East China Sea. The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force is called in if necessary.

The new police unit will more likely work with the Japan Coast Guard than the Self-Defense Force, according to a Ministry of

Defense spokesman. Coast Guard officials said there are no plans for joint missions with the police.

It is customary in Japan for government spokespeople to speak on condition that their names not be used in press reports.

Officials from Japan's Cabinet Office declined to comment.

Despite the lack of details, the National Police Agency's fiscal 2020 budget request offers a window into the plans. The request, which can be found on the agency's website, seeks an additional 159 police officers to respond to "armed groups invading isolated islands."

Those policemen would be split between Okinawa — 263 miles east of the Senkakus — and Fukuoka, which is on Kyushu, one of the four main islands of Japan, and close to Iki and Tsushima islands, for possible response to incursion there. Tsushima was once claimed by South Korea.

The National Police Agency also plans to add one new helicopter on Okinawa and another in Fukuoka, Japan's Sankei newspaper reported.

In August 2012, a group of Chinese activists were arrested after landing on one of the Senkaku islands, according to Japanese media reports. Japan subsequently announced plans to develop underwater drones to monitor its remote islands and supersonic glide bombs that can be launched from nearby islands to deter attacks.

The United States has long declined to take a position on the islands' sovereignty; however, Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump have both declared the Senkakus will be protected under the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

The budget request will be evaluated by Japan's Ministry of Finance at the end of December and taken up by the Diet in early January, a Ministry of Finance spokeswoman said Tuesday.

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BenBen/Wikicommons

Japan is reportedly planning to establish a police force to defend the Senkakus, a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea claimed by both Japan and China.



CARLOS VAZQUEZ/Stars and Stripes

Habu snakes have been seen in the high grass near facilities at Camp Foster, Okinawa, while a moving contract is being negotiated.

Venomous snakes spotted at base in Okinawa amid lack of mowing

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Officials on Okinawa are warning people to be wary of habu snakes on Marine Corps bases after the lack of a mowing contract has led to large swaths of tall grass and sightings of the venomous reptiles.

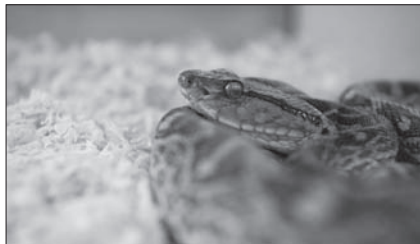
If left untreated, a habu's bite can be deadly.

"There have been multiple sightings of habu snakes around tall grassy areas on Camp Kinser," said an Aug. 20 Facebook post from Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. "The grass has not been cut due to working out the new contract and unfortunately there has been a lot of rain. Please pass to anyone you know on Camp Kinser to stay out of the deep grass until it is cut."

The Marine Corps uses Japanese contractors for mowing on its bases, said a spokesman from the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents Japan's Ministry of Defense on the island. While some on-base contracts are negotiated and awarded by the Japanese government, the Marines serve as the contracting authority for on-base mowers.

Marine officials have had the grass cut in problem areas at various times over the past few months, but servicemembers and their families have taken to social media to complain that it has gotten so high it obscures oncoming traffic on some base roads and encroaches on school bus stops.

The Marine Corps has prioritized grass-cutting in areas that "impact the operational readiness and training of our tenant units," as well as the "quality of life for our base residents," Marine Corps Installations Pacific



KRISTAN CAMPBELL/U.S. Air Force

A Taiwan habu snake sits in a terrarium at the Entomology Pest Management Section at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

spokesman Maj. Andrew Aranda said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Aug. 30.

There have been no snake bites treated at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa this year, down from two last year, Aranda wrote. Marine officials credit education for the decline.

The scope of the problem remains unclear. Marine officials did not answer Stars and Stripes' questions about how many snake sightings there have been, which bases have been affected, when the previous mowing contract expired and when negotiations on a new contract began.

"We are diligently working through the federal regulations which allow us to make modifications to our grass cutting contracts that will bring the fastest resolution possible," Aranda said. "These improvements will not happen overnight, but we are committed to making them happen as soon as possible."

Four types of habu snakes are indigenous to Okinawa — the habu, Hime habu, Sakishima habu and Taiwan habu — accord-

ing to the Okinawa Prefectural government website.

Up to 50 people on Okinawa — most often farmers or farmworkers — are bitten each year. Habu venom is hemotoxic, destroying blood cells and tissues, according to the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University's website. Snakebite antivenom is available but the bites can be painful and cause permanent tissue damage.

Habuses are nocturnal, and while they do not hibernate, they are more active in warmer months when their food sources — rats and shrews — come out of winter hiding spots, Kadena Air Base's 18th Wing said in a 2013 fact sheet on the snakes.

"Despite the lack of bites this year, there is always a risk because we are living in the snake's natural habitat," Aranda said. "We urge people to seek medical treatment immediately if ... bitten by a Habu."

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EUROPE

Army assesses upgrades to Europe ranges

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. Army expects to know soon what changes must be made at ranges in Europe to meet new, more demanding marksmanship training requirements for soldiers, service officials said.

Assessments are ongoing and needs should be clearer in the coming weeks, U.S. Army Europe said, following the announcement last month of a revamped small-arms training test designed to better prepare all troops, regardless of their jobs, to shoot accurately while under duress.

"Just like those in the United States, some ranges in Europe will require modifications over the next year to meet the new requirements," said Elisia Lukasik, a USAREUR spokeswoman.

USAREUR hasn't yet deter-



OLIVER SOMMER/U.S. Army

Members of the 18th Military Police Brigade practice shooting in Breitenwald Training Area in Landstuhl, Germany, in 2018. The Army is assessing its ranges in Europe after changes in training requirements.

mined which locations may need changes. The U.S. maintains ranges

throughout Europe, including the sprawling Grafenwoehr Training Area, where thousands of sol-

diers are based and others rotate through for training. The ranges also support the Germany-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the Italy-based 173rd Airborne Brigade, the only combat brigade on the Continent.

Units around Europe also may need to be outfitted with larger ammunition stockpiles to meet the increased training demands, USAREUR Command Sgt. Maj. Rob Abernethy said.

"I am optimistic about [the new training]," he said. "I think it is the right direction, and I am looking forward to making modifications to make sure we in U.S. Army Europe are resourcing the soldier that is going to be taking part."

The new marksmanship standards will be rolled out next month and must be met by October 2020.

Among the changes: Soldiers

will be tested on whether they can rapidly load and reload as they would in combat, and they'll need to quickly switch firing positions and make snap decisions on what targets to hit. Other new requirements include demonstrating proficiency in night combat conditions and simulated chemical attacks.

The Army said it also is eliminating timeouts when weapons malfunction during testing.

The new standards also require units to use indoor and electronic firing ranges as more affordable aids to instruction rather than just relying on outdoor ranges.

The Army has Engagement Skills Trainers — an electronic system that enables soldiers to train virtually — in Europe, USAREUR said.

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Lakenheath squadron wins honors for fighting Islamic State

By CHRISTOPHER DENNIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — A U.S. fighter squadron that flew thousands of hours fighting Islamic State last year has received the Raytheon Trophy, marking the third time in a row a Lakenheath unit has won the honor.

The 494th Fighter Squadron received the 66-year-old trophy, a service-wide award sponsored by defense contractor Raytheon, for its overall performance and in recognition of its six-month deployment to the Middle East last year.

"In the spring of 2018, when things in Syria were heating up, 494th was deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve," current squadron commander Lt. Col. Jaana Donberg said. "They set records for the amount of sorties in a 24-hour period and the most defensive counter-air sorties."

While deployed with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, the "Panthers" completed nearly 10,000 flying hours while dropping more than 2,000 missiles while dropping more than 500 bombs during operations against ISIS, according to a 2018 statement.

The F-15 squadron also completed its deployment in the midst of a crowded and complex airspace.

"When there are Russian and Syrian fighter bombers and small unmanned aerial vehicles you have to run intercepts on, they were always within a short amount of time having to make decisions about engagements," Donberg said.

Four years ago, Raytheon opened up eligibility for the trophy to all top fighter squadrons in the Air Force, said Wes Kremer, president of Raytheon Missile Systems. Previously, the compe-



SHANICE WILLIAM-JONES/U.S. Air Force

Above: A 494th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief inspects an F-15E Strike Eagle assigned to the 494th Fighter Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in May. Above right: The Raytheon Trophy was awarded to the Lakenheath, England-based squadron on Aug. 31 in recognition of its overall performance and its Middle East deployment last year.

tition was open only to air-to-air fighter squadrons. The Air Force runs the selection process, Kremer said.

The squadron submitted its achievements, which included inspection records, competitions, mission reports, how the squadron aligned with the national defense strategy and more, Donberg said.

The previous two years the award went to the 493rd and 492nd squadrons out of Lakenheath. This is the first time the 494th has claimed the award, which was first introduced as the Hughes Trophy in 1953.

The silver trophy will stay in England with the 494th Squadron

for the year before going to the next unit to earn it. Some in Lakenheath don't think it will go far.

"I'll tell you, I think we're the front-runner for a fourth year,"

said Col. Jason Camilletti, the operations commander for the 48th Fighter Wing.

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MILITARY

Talk of valuables may have led to fatal burglary

By KARIN ZEITVOGEL
Stars and Stripes

ZWEIBRUECKEN, Germany — A moving company worker posted on Facebook and told colleagues that an American family had a safe filled with gold coins and gold-plated roses, witnesses at a trial for two men charged in the violent burglary of the Americans' residence said Tuesday.

The moving company worker, S.S., who under German law can be referred to only by his initials, told the court he helped move a safe that "must have weighed [880 pounds] and needed six or seven men to carry it into the house."

"The American man counted every single gold-plated rose to make sure they were all there," said the witness, who no longer works at the moving company.

The Americans' home was the scene of a violent burglary in February in which one burglar was

fatally stabbed by the father, who is a Defense Department civilian and a former Air Force major.

Asked by the judge how someone not involved in the move — including the four men who attempted to burglarize the residence on a Sunday evening in February — may have learned of the Americans' high-value collection, S.S. said he talked about it in a conversation with colleagues during a cigarette break at the moving company.

Another witness who worked for the same company said S.S. had posted about the collection on Facebook.

Describing how information may have spread about the safe, that worker said he was in a relationship with a woman who often received visits from H.M., the burglar killed by the American father during the break-in.

"My girlfriend's mother used to be in a relationship with H.M.

and he came over often, looking for his ex," the witness said. "H.M. may have heard me talking with my girlfriend about a big job I was working on."

The last time H.M. visited was two days before the home invasion, he said.

The head of the police team that investigated the crime said news of the safe spread quickly among moving company workers.

The police immediately suspected that a moving company employee may have tipped off the burglars about the family's gold collection, but their investigation produced useful leads only when a worker came forward and was granted immunity in exchange for information.

The movers' involvement in the break-in has prompted Americans to post their concerns in area social media groups.

About 50,000 Defense Department personnel and their families

live in the Kaiserslautern area, which includes Ramstein Air Base, most of whom use military-contracted, locally based movers.

The testimony on Tuesday came after two of the men accused in the violent home invasion pleaded guilty last week to attempted burglary.

The third man, 61, who has a long criminal record, is being tried separately. His lawyer told the court today that he will also plead guilty to attempted burglary when he next appears in court in two weeks.

The admission of guilt by all three suspects means the American couple, who were at home with their three children at the time of the attempted burglary, will not have to return to court to testify. The suspects face up to 15 years in prison if convicted of attempted burglary and one additional year for failing to help the suspect who died.

The two who have pleaded guilty testified that after the American man opened the door, the suspect who later died forced his way inside. The three who remained outside fought with the American man, who pushed them out and slammed the door.

The American then grabbed a kitchen knife and ran upstairs where the lone suspect who'd entered the house was attacking his wife, according to previous testimony.

The American stabbed the suspect as he chased him out of the house. The four men, three of whom were brothers, drove away in a van but stopped in a village 10 miles away to ask for help for the wounded man, whom they left on a sidewalk. An ambulance crew pronounced him dead shortly afterward.

Stars and Stripes reporter Marc Strosser contributed to this story. zeitvogel.karin@stripes.com

Former Navy SEAL, 52, enters Yale as a freshman, plans to 'do my best'

By PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Former Navy SEAL James Hatch says heading to class as a freshman at Yale University is just about as nerve-wracking as preparing for the uncertainty of combat.

At 52 years old, Hatch does not fit the profile of the traditional Yale freshman.

"My experience in academia is somewhat limited, at best," he said. "But I want to learn, and I feel this can make me a better person. I also feel my life experience, maybe with my maturity to which my wife would say is laughable — I think I can help some of the young people out."

Hatch's journey to the Ivy League has been serpentine.

He joined the military out of high school, became a SEAL and spent just short of 26 years in the

Navy, fighting in Afghanistan and other hot spots.

His military career ended after he was seriously wounded in 2009 during a mission to find Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who had walked off his post.

Eighteen surgeries and some notoriety followed after his story became public during Bergdahl's trial. He suffered from serious post-traumatic stress, fell into drinking and drugs and even attempted suicide. But he got help from professionals and his family, he said, and is now better able to cope.

Hatch has authored a memoir, become a speaker and runs Spikes K-9 Fund, a nonprofit organization that helps cover the health care costs and provides ballistic vests for police and military dogs. It's a cause he has been passionate about since being a dog handler

in the military. He credits dogs with saving his life several times, including on his final mission, when one alerted him to the position of the enemy.

Hatch was admitted to Yale after applying to be an Eli Whitney scholar, a program for non-traditional students who have had their educational careers interrupted.

"I was shocked to get accepted," he said. "But my wife told me I would be silly not to take this opportunity, and she's right. So I'm going to do my best, get in there and start swinging."

Hatch is in Yale's Directed Studies program, which teaches students how to analyze great texts and write persuasive essays through courses in philosophy, literature and historical and political thought.

Tuition and other costs are being covered by the G.I. Bill,



PAT EATON-ROBB/AP

Former U.S. Navy SEAL James Hatch, shown with his service dog, Mina, near his home in Branford, Conn., will study at Yale University.

scholarships from veterans groups and Yale.

He will attend classes with his PTSD service dog, Mina, who he said has already become popular with other students. His biggest worries, he said, are that he's too old and might not fit in or be able to do the work.

But Hatch is just the type of person Yale wants, said Patricia

Wei, the director of admissions for the Eli Whitney Students Program.

"He brings just an incredibly different perspective," she said. "We don't have anyone here that is like Jimmy, and just his life and professional experiences will add tremendously to the Yale classroom, to the Yale community."

Obesity: Army fares the worst for rates of injury and behavioral health and sleep disorders

FROM FRONT PAGE

"This report highlights obesity as a growing health concern among sailors," the study authors said. "Obesity contributes to hypertension, diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, cancer, all-cause mortality and increased health care costs."

The findings follow earlier studies that have found dramatic increases in obesity among the services since 2001.

But while obesity has grown, overall rates of injury have decreased since 2016, the report found. As with obesity, the results were not the same across all the services.

The Navy fared the best, with

the lowest rates of acute and cumulative trauma injuries and lower than average rates of sleep disorders and behavioral health diagnoses, such as adjustment disorder, depression and anxiety.

The Army, the largest branch, saw soldiers suffering the highest rates of injury and behavioral health and sleep disorders, the study found.

Mission-specific training and operational requirements were likely to blame for the rate of injury, which was about 26% higher than the DOD average, it said.

The study recommended the military look at the causes and prevention of behavioral health and sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea and insomnia, given

their potential to reduce performance or lead to disability and separation.

The Air Force saw among the highest rates of injuries from repeated "micro-trauma," which caused pain and inflammation in backs, knees and other joints.

The Marine Corps, which is the smallest branch, also has the youngest force, which likely explains its relatively low rate of obesity.

The military data show more than one-quarter of troops over age 35 were obese, compared with less than 10% of those under age 25. Nearly 90% of Marines were under age 35, compared with about three-quarters of the other services.

But the Corps suffered higher rates of acute injuries, such as sprains and strains, compared with the other services. Back and knee joint disorders were the leading causes of limited duty.

Such injuries resulted in reduced deployability and increased medical separations, the study said.

To calculate obesity rates, the study used data for all servicemembers whose height and weight were measured on the same day and cross-referenced with birthdate, sex and branch-of-service information. It relied on body mass index, a measure of body fat based on height and weight, and excluded pregnant

troops. A BMI of 30 or more was considered obese.

While less accurate than methods of direct measurement, height BMI is linked to many of the same negative health effects of increased body fat, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said.

As a growing trend in America, obesity has also made it harder for the services to find people physically qualified to serve. More than 20% of Americans age 12 to 19 and nearly 40% of those over age 20 were obese, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey found last fall.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

By SIOBHAN O'GRADY
AND SHARIF HASSAN
The Washington Post

AKABUL, Afghanistan — A young woman lounges in a meadow, daydreaming about her love. Her friend sings and decoys her long hair with freshly picked flowers. Suddenly, she perks up to the clip-clop of an approaching horse. "Sharif is coming!" she cries out, jumping up to run toward him.

In Afghanistan, movie scenes like this one — released just before the outbreak of civil war in 1992 — were once an essential part of the country's rich culture. Then, in the mid-1990s, the Taliban banned them — destroying some reels of film and leaving others to decay in storage.

Now, an elite team of film archivists here is working to conserve them as part of a years-long government program that aims to digitize about a century's worth of Afghan documentaries and films over the next six months.

The project coincides with negotiations between the United States and the Taliban that have raised both hopes for an end to the 18-year war and fears the Taliban could return to power. Once finished, some clips from the digitized movies will be made available to download online and others will be screened at mobile theaters across Afghanistan — even, the archivists hope, in some of the many areas that remain under Taliban control.

"Archives are the identity of a country," said Sultan Mohammad Istailfi, 72, a longtime employee of Afghan Film, the state-run film company, who is part of the digitization team. "If the archive is not preserved, the identity of the country is lost."

That the films have survived this long is something of a miracle.

Afghan Film

Afghan Film opened in the late 1960s with help from the United States and went on to oversee the production of movies across Afghanistan over the following decades.

When the Taliban took over the government in Kabul in 1996, the militants enforced a strict version of Islamic law, banning music and moving images. Under their rules, just seeing a woman's face in public was deemed immodest. To see one appear on screen — pining for a man, her hair uncovered — would have been considered sacrilegious.

Afghan Film staff knew the Taliban's hard-line interpretation of Islam put them and their films in danger.

Fearing the militants would destroy their irreplaceable archive, some employees risked their lives to hide the films, piling as many as they could in the building's ceilings and walls. When the Taliban eventually stormed the company's headquarters, militants burned much of what they found.

"It felt as if I were at a funeral," Habibullah Habib, 61, a film projectionist who helped hide the films decades ago, said of that day. "The air was full of grief."

Archives restoration

Team works to conserve Afghan films damaged during rule by Taliban



PHOTOS BY KIANA HAYERI/The Washington Post

Nazifa Hashemi analyzes a film from the archives in Afghanistan that was shot in the 1960s. He is among a group of Afghans working to digitize films and documentaries that were saved from being destroyed by the Taliban but have decayed in storage.



Habibullah Habib works on restoring a film in his office in Afghanistan.

Many of the movies survived in their hiding places until after the Taliban government fell in 2001. But in the shadow of the drawn-out war that followed, many of those films were neglected and damaged.

Efforts to protect the surviving films by digitizing them began years ago, but with funding and equipment shortages, the process stagnated.

Then, last year, the archives staff at Afghanistan's presidential palace took over the project and moved the reels from the historic Afghan Film headquarters into a climate-controlled room in the basement of a gray building on the far side of the palace compound in Kabul, where they now sit neatly stacked behind a heavy door with a biometric lock.

Critics accused the government

of moving the films out of reach of the general population by barricading them on one of the most secure compounds in an already militarized capital. But Rafiullah Azizi, director of the palace archives, said relocating the reels was the only way to ensure they would survive whatever happens next in Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan has been destroyed, and the movies are no exception," he said. "They need to be taken care of like a baby." Some of the films were "almost ruined" when they were transferred to the palace, he said. The already fragile film was often unlabeled, ripped or covered in dust.

Now, six days a week, in a windowless room on the second floor of the building where the films are housed, four men sit at desks

in different corners, diligently cleaning and repairing the 16- and 35-millimeter film, one strip at a time.

One gently wipes dust off the film with a small brush while another plays an old movie on a small screen, closely scrutinizing its sound quality and making careful adjustments. Once a reel of film has been properly repaired, the staff project it onto a large screen, taking notes about its content and any remaining glitches before registering it in a database.

Then the film is placed inside a \$30,000 machine that transfers its contents onto a connected computer.

A second group of experts then pore over individual scenes, using software to tweak the newly digitized version's sound and color

until every detail feels right.

The archivists working here see restoring these films to their original condition as a crucial service to their country — as important as the work others are doing to slowly rebuild other artifacts the Taliban has destroyed, like the centuries-old Buddhas they once smashed to pieces that experts are now carefully reconstructing at the National Museum in Kabul. Once the film digitization project is complete, they plan to move copies of some films to embassies abroad to ensure their protection.

'The mirror of society'

Mamnoon Maqsoodi — one of Afghanistan's most beloved actors, who is best known for his role as a simple villager on his first trip to Kabul in the comedy "De Konday Zoy," which screened shortly before the Taliban came to power — said film is treasured here because movies are a coping mechanism, offering momentary respite for Afghans worn down by decades of war.

"Movies are the mirror of a society — the mirror of both its problems and its successes," Maqsoodi said. "Cinema can give a lot and connect people who have each other."

Since the war began, Maqsoodi said, he has never played the role of a Taliban fighter. But he has played the part of their victims and, in doing so, has sought to portray the harm the militants wrought on his country.

"If I can take revenge through acting and making films, I would never pick up a gun," he said.

On a recent afternoon, Habib, the film projectionist, gently placed 16-millimeter film onto a yellow reel projector, then cranked its handle and peered through a small window where he could see it appear on the screen in a room next door.

Bit by bit, scenes from an earlier Afghanistan came to life.

It was the 1970s, and young women, their hair uncovered, skipped joyfully through a public park in Kabul. Teenagers marched proudly in a parade at a stadium in the capital. Vendors bustled on streets not patrolled by the military.

For Nazifa Hashemi, 58, who is contributing to the films' restoration by analyzing and categorizing their content, watching these familiar scenes can evoke painful memories.

As a young woman in Kabul, she moved around town as freely as the women on screen, dressed in miniskirts and high heels and mingling with men at picnics. But when the Taliban came to power, she was forced to cover herself in a blue burqa. Most of her family fled to the United States.

Sometimes, the films remind her of how much she's lost. But they're also a source of pride and inspiration — a reminder of how much Afghans have left that's worth trying to save.

"As long as we are alive, we want to see our country, our people, from the beginning to the end," she said. "Never will I love anywhere else in the world as much as I love my own land."

NATION

‘Catastrophic’ Dorian parks over Bahamas

By RAMON ESPINOSA,
DANICA COTO
AND MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

FREEPORT, Bahamas — Practically parking over the Bahamas for a day and a half, Hurricane Dorian pounded away at the islands Tuesday in a watery onslaught that devastated thousands of homes, trapped people in attics and crippled hospitals. At least five deaths were reported, with the full extent of the damage far from clear.

The United Nations and the International Red Cross began mobilizing to deal with the unfolding humanitarian crisis. Prime Minister Hubert Minnis called it “a historic tragedy.”

The storm’s punishing winds and torrential rain battered the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama, which have a combined population of about 70,000 and are known for their marinas, golf courses and all-inclusive resorts. The Grand Bahama airport was under 6 feet of water.

Desperate callers trying to find loved ones left messages with local radio stations as Health Minister Duane Sands said Dorian devastated the health infrastructure on Grand Bahama island and severe flooding rendered the main hospital there unusable. He said he hoped to send an advanced medical team soon to the Abaco Islands.

“We will confirm what the real situation is on the ground,” he said. “We are hoping and praying



Boats litter the area Monday around a marina in the Bahamas after they were tossed around by Hurricane Dorian. At least five deaths were reported, with the full extent of the damage unclear.

that the loss of life is limited.”

Red Cross spokesman Matthew Cochrane said more than 13,000 houses, or about 45% of the homes on Grand Bahama and Abaco, were believed to have been severely damaged or destroyed. U.N. officials said more than 60,000 people on the hard-hit islands will need food, and the Red Cross said some 62,000 will need clean drinking water.

The Red Cross authorized a half-million dollars to fund the

first wave of assistance, Cochrane said.

“What we are hearing lends credence to the fact that this has been a catastrophic storm and a catastrophic impact,” he said.

Sands said the main hospital in Marsh Harbor in the Abaco islands was intact and sheltering 400 people but in need of food, water, medicine and surgical supplies. He said crews were trying to airlift five to seven kidney failure patients from Abaco who

had not received dialysis since Friday.

To the south, the Bahamas’ most populous island, New Providence, Nassau, and has more than a quarter-million people, suffered little damage.

As of 11 a.m. EDT, Dorian’s winds had dipped to 110 mph, making it a Category 2 hurricane, down from a fearsome Category 5 when it struck.

The storm was centered about

45 miles north of Freeport and 105 miles east of Fort Pierce, Fla.

After standing still for nearly a day, it was on the move again, but just barely, pushing northwest at 2 mph, or about as fast as a person walks. Hurricane-force winds extended up to 60 miles from its center.

NASA satellite imagery through Monday night showed spots in the Bahamas where Dorian had dumped as much as 35 inches of rain, said private meteorologist Ryan Maue.

Dorian was on track to approach the Florida coast later Tuesday, but the threat to the state eased significantly, with forecasters not expecting a direct hit. The forecast instead showed North Carolina in the crosshairs toward the end of the week.

The U.S. Coast Guard airlifted at least 21 people injured on Abaco Island, which Dorian hit on Sunday with sustained winds of 185 mph and gusts up to 220 mph, a strength matched only by the Labor Day hurricane of 1935, before storms were given names.

Bahamian officials said they received a “tremendous” number of calls from people in flooded homes. One radio station said it got more than 2,000 distress messages, including reports of a 5-month-old baby stranded on a roof and a woman with six grandchildren who cut a hole in a roof to escape rising floodwaters.

At least two designated storm shelters flooded.

Anxiety, impatience mark long wait for Dorian in coastal US

By GERALD HERBERT
Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Two days after storm shutters started going up and people waited in long lines for gas and food in anticipation of Hurricane Dorian, the parking lot of a Home Depot a short drive from the beach in central Florida was nearly empty as the sun peeked out behind scattered clouds.

Mike Lafferty boarded up his house near Vero Beach days ago and was at the store to pick up a few more things. The waiting can be bothersome, but it beats being caught unprepared.

The National Hurricane Center has a 60% chance of the area getting hurricane force winds before early Wednesday.

“It’s not overkill. It’s necessary. You don’t know what is going to happen,” Lafferty said. “Electricity is going to go out sometime. You have to be ready for it.”

From Florida to North Carolina, residents and government officials have been preparing for possible impacts of Dorian for days, even as the official forecast has the center of the storm staying offshore. They started taking action Sunday. South Carolina ordered about 830,000 people to evacuate the state’s coast begin-



Glynn County school resource officer Mark Hooper and school support staff member Sherree Armstrong help Elizabeth Scales board a bus in Brunswick, Ga., as hundreds of residents left under mandatory evacuation ahead of Hurricane Dorian on Monday.

ning at noon Monday.

The Category 5 hurricane’s nearly unprecedented strength — the 185 mph winds made it the second-strongest storm in the Atlantic Ocean since 1950 — has people aware that even a tiny error in the forecast could be catastrophic.

“We have to be ready for it,” said Neil Baxley, commander of emergency services in coastal South

Carolina’s Beaufort County. “We are deep in the error cone.”

The gas lines and people queued up with carts outside grocery stores weren’t seen Sunday along the southeast U.S. coast.

Instead, people were waiting and waiting to see the destruction from the northern Bahamas, where Dorian made landfall on the Abaco Islands.

“I’m thanking God now that

it has turned a little more to the east. But that’s a forecast. We never know,” said Kevin Browning, who was at the Vero Beach Home Depot looking for supplies after putting up his hurricane shutters Friday. “I feel for the Bahamas and I’m praying for them.”

Florida’s governor suspended tolls on roads to help those seeking to leave.

Further up the coast, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said state troopers would start reversing lanes on major coastal roads so they all head inland.

Many of South Carolina’s coastal residents are evacuating for the fourth time in four years. Just one storm hit the state directly during that time — Matthew in 2016.

McMaster addressed the storm weariness Sunday evening as he announced the upcoming evacuations.

“We can’t make everybody happy. But we believe we can keep everyone alive,” the governor said.

Earlier in the day, McMaster said he understood the frustration with the waiting and uncertainty of Dorian’s path.

“We don’t have a solid prediction as to where it might turn, where it might not turn, when it

will get here. But we assure you we have the best minds and the most experienced and talented people working around the clock,” McMaster said.

In Florida, it was still the Labor Day holiday weekend, so folks headed to the beach.

It wasn’t as crowded as usual at Jacksonville Beach, and members of the American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corps were warning people not to go into the water.

“It looks like business as usual, which is a little strange, but a lot of people are here from out of town; they don’t want the storm to ruin their Labor Day weekend,” said volunteer lifeguard Mikey Atkin.

Gerry Heister has lived in Florida for 35 years and seen a lot of storms come through Vero Beach.

“Frances, Jeanne, Matthew and whatever the heck the others were,” she said Sunday, trying to recall them all.

She said she has learned it is better to be prepared and the worst not happen than to be surprised and not ready.

“You just prepare and then once it’s gone, you get on with the rest of your life,” Heister said.

NATION

Neighbor: Texas gunman 'violent'

Associated Press

ODESSA, Texas — The gunman in a west Texas rampage "was on a long spiral of going down" and had been fired from his oil services job the morning he killed seven people, calling 911 both before and after the shooting began, authorities said.

Officers killed Seth Aaron Ator, 36, on Saturday outside a busy Odessa movie theater after a spate of violence that spanned 10 miles, injuring around two dozen people in addition to the dead.

FBI special agent Christopher Combs said Monday that Ator called the agency's tip line as well as local police dispatch on Saturday after being fired from Journey Oilfield Services, making "rambling statements about some of the atrocities that he felt that he had gone through."

"He was on a long spiral of going down," Combs said. "He didn't wake up Saturday morning and walk into his company and then it happened. He went to that company in trouble."

Fifteen minutes after the call to the FBI, Combs said, a Texas state trooper unaware of the calls to authorities tried pulling over Ator for failing to signal a lane change. That was when Ator pointed an AR-style rifle toward the rear window of his car and fired on the trooper, starting a terrifying police chase as Ator sprayed bullets into passing cars, shopping plazas and killed a U.S. Postal Service employee while hijacking her mail truck.

Combs said Ator "showed up to



CITY OF ODESSA, FBI/AP

Seth Aaron Ator, the gunman in a west Texas rampage, "was on a long spiral of going down" before he killed seven people, authorities said Monday.

work enraged" but did not point to any specific source of his anger.

Ator's home on the outskirts of Odessa was a corrugated metal shack along a dirt road surrounded by trailers, mobile homes and oil pump jacks. On Monday, a green car without a rear windshield was parked out front, the entire residence cordoned off by police tape.

Combs described it as a "strange residence" that reflected "what his mental state was going into this." Combs said he did not know whether Ator had been diagnosed with any prior mental health problems.

A neighbor, Rocio Gutierrez, told The Associated Press that



SUE OGORNIK/AP

A drilling rig can be seen behind Ator's home near Odessa, Texas.

Ator was "a violent, aggressive person" that would shoot at animals, mostly rabbits, at all hours of the night.

"We were afraid of him because you could tell what kind of person he was just by looking at him," Gutierrez said. "He was not nice, he was not friendly, he was not polite."

The daylight attack over the Labor Day holiday weekend came just weeks after another mass shooting killed 22 people in the Texas border city of El Paso. Authorities had not said how

Ator obtained the gun used in the shooting, but Ator had previously failed a federal background check for a firearm, said John Wester, an agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Wester did not say when Ator failed the back-

ground check or why.

Online court records show Ator was arrested in 2001 for a misdemeanor offense that would not have prevented him from legally purchasing firearms in Texas.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted Monday that Ator didn't go through a background check for the weapon he used in Odessa. He did not elaborate, and a spokesman referred questions to the Texas Department of Public Safety, which didn't immediately respond for comment.

Odessa Police Chief Michael Gerke said Ator's company also called 911 on Saturday after Ator was fired but that Ator had taken off by the time police showed up.

"Basically, they were complaining on each other because they had a disagreement over the firing," Gerke said.

New push in DC to end Yemen bombing

By JOHN HUDSON
AND MISSY RYAN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A group of Republican and Democratic lawmakers is making a new push to end the Saudi-led bombing campaign in Yemen amid intensifying criticism of the air war following an attack on a rebel-run prison that may have killed more than 100 people Sunday.

The lawmakers' goal is to prohibit U.S. logistical support for the coalition's airstrikes through an amendment to the annual defense policy bill, a move that they hope would effectively ground the air campaign by banning the U.S. provision of spare parts that Saudi Arabia needs to maintain its planes. The measure would also restrict certain forms of intelligence sharing.

The amendment, first presented by Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., already passed in the House's version of the defense authorization, and now members of both chambers are pressing their leagues not to remove it during conference negotiations with the Senate.

"We strongly urge you to include the House provision that prohibits military support for the Saudi-led coalition's war" against the Houthis rebels in Yemen, the lawmakers said in a letter obtained by The Washington Post that was signed by Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.; Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Rand Paul, R-Ky.; and Mike Lee, R-Utah, and by Reps. Adam Schiff, D-Calif.; Mark Pocan, R-Wis.; Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.; and dozens of others.

"Inclusion of this amendment would ensure that our men and women in uniform are not involved in a war which has never been authorized by Congress, and continues to undermine rather than advance U.S. national security interests," the lawmakers wrote.

The letter is addressed to the top Republicans and Democrats on the armed services committees, who will negotiate a range of disparities between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

The lawmakers' appeal comes as the conflict drags on in its fifth year, with the civilian death toll rising and feuding among factions allied with key U.S. partners complicating prospects for peace.

U.S. officials have long called for a political solution to end the war, but the Trump administration also has increasingly framed the conflict in terms of a larger regional standoff with Iran.

Mounting congressional frustration with Saudi Arabia has resulted in a series of bipartisan legislative steps over the past year but has the Trump U.S. support for Saudi Arabia in the war.

High-capacity magazines get new scrutiny

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Lawmakers around the country are making a renewed push to ban high-capacity magazines that gunmen have used in many recent massacres, allowing them to inflict mass casualties at a startling rate before police can stop the carnage.

Nine states have passed laws restricting magazine capacity to 10 to 15 bullets, and the Democratic-led U.S. House plans to consider a similar ban at the federal level in the coming weeks.

In arguing for the bans, politicians, experts and gun control advocates point out that in the time it takes for a driver to wait through a stop light, a shooter with a 100-round magazine can kill and injure dozens of people.

The man who opened fire in Dayton, Ohio, last month killed nine people and injured 27 others in only 30 seconds, in part because of the 100-bullet drum attached to his rifle. It took only 85 seconds for a gunman to empty several 30-round magazines at an IHOP in Carson City, Nev., killing four people and injuring 14 in 2011.

Authorities have not released information on the accessories the gunman in Odessa, Texas,



A stag arms AR-15 rifle with 30-round and 10-round magazines is displayed. Lawmakers are making a renewed push to ban the high-capacity magazines that have been used in several mass killings.

used over the weekend when he opened fire on police and bystanders with an AR-style weapon.

The deadliest example occurred in Las Vegas two years ago when a gunman possessed a dozen 100-round magazines that helped him squeeze off 10 rounds per second onto a crowd of concert-goers from his hotel room, killing 58 people. Las Vegas gunman Stephen Paddock had an arsenal of high-powered rifles along with

his large-capacity magazines and bump stocks — now-banned devices that attach to a gun to make it fire bullets more rapidly. The Trump administration banned bump stocks after that massacre, but the high-capacity magazines that smoothly fed hundreds of bullets into Paddock's rifles remain legal.

"We know from video evidence that he was firing about 10 rounds per second," said Louis Klarevas,

a research professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. "The reason he was able to do that was he had a combination of assault rifles with bump stocks and large-capacity magazines. Imagine if he only had 10-round magazines. He would only have shot 10 rounds at a time."

The Keep Americans Safe Act will soon be debated in the House Judiciary Committee. It would prohibit the transfer, importation or possession of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

But federal legislation is expected to face deep resistance in the Republican-led Senate and from the National Rifle Association. Critics point out that there are millions of high-capacity magazines in circulation, limiting the effectiveness of a ban.

Alan Gottlieb, with the Bellevue, Wash.-based Second Amendment Foundation, said large-capacity magazines are important for self-defense and can help when there are multiple attackers in a home.

"Plus, it only takes one second to switch out one magazine for another," he said. "There are lots of videos on how easy it is to do that."

NATION

No one found alive after dive boat catches fire

By STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Officials said Tuesday that 34 people died after a boat packed with scuba divers caught fire near an island off the Southern California coast and they have called off search efforts for survivors.

The Coast Guard and law enforcement said no one has been found alive after flames tore through the dive boat early Monday as passengers on a recreational scuba diving trip slept below deck.

The Conception carried 33 passengers and 6 crew members, and only five of the crew sleeping on the top deck were able to escape by jumping off and taking a small boat to safety. Investigators have not yet determined how the fire broke out.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said the bodies of 20 victims have been recovered and divers have seen between four and six others in the sunken wreck. He said authorities are trying to stabilize the boat that sank in about 60 feet of water so divers can recover those remains.

Most need to be identified by DNA analysis and officials are

collecting samples from family members, Brown said.

One passenger, marine biologist and veteran diver Kristy Finstad, 41, was identified in a Facebook post by her brother, Brett Harmeling of Houston.

The missing and dead were among 39 passengers and crew who had departed Santa Barbara Harbor on Saturday aboard the boat for a Labor Day weekend trip.

The fire broke out about 3 a.m. Monday as the Conception was anchored off Santa Cruz Island, about 90 miles west of Los Angeles. The crew appeared to quickly call for help.

"The call was garbled, it was not that clear, but we were able to get some information out of it to send vessels," Coast Guard Petty Officer Mark Barney said.

Capt. Paul Amaral of the vessel assistance company TowBoatUS also launched a fast boat from Ventura Harbor, but it was 30 miles away. By the time it got there around 5 a.m., a Coast Guard helicopter and a fireboat were on scene.

Amaral said he first searched the water and shoreline, then turned back to the Conception, which was adrift. He attached



CAPT. PAUL AMARAL, TowBoatUS VENTURA/AP

This image made from video shows an emergency responder dousing dive boat Conception before it sank off Santa Cruz Island near the coast of Ventura County, Calif., early Monday.



STEFANIE DAZIO/AP

Orlando Aldana, 42, of Santa Barbara, Calif., bought 34 candles in honor of the victims to place at the growing memorial for those caught in the fire on the Conception on Monday.

a line and pulled it into deeper water so the fireboats could reach it.

The five crew members went on a dinghy to a private fishing

boat, The Grape Escape, that was anchored near the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. Two had minor injuries.

That boat's owners, Bob and

Shirley Hansen, told The New York Times they were asleep when they heard pounding on the side of their 60-foot vessel about 3:30 a.m. and discovered the frightened crew members.

"When we looked out, the other boat was totally engulfed in flames, from stem to stern," Hansen said. "I could see the fire coming through holes on the side of the boat. There were these explosions every few beats. You can't prepare yourself for that. It was horrendous."

The 75-foot Conception was on a three-day excursion to the chain of rugged, wind-swept isles that form Channel Islands National Park in the Pacific Ocean west of Los Angeles. The fire broke out as the boat sat anchored in Platt's Harbor off Santa Cruz Island.

The Conception, based in Santa Barbara Harbor on the mainland, was owned by Santa Barbara-based Truth Aquatics, founded in 1974.

Farmers' loyalty to Trump tested over corn ethanol rules

By STEVE KARNOWSKI,
SCOTT MCFETRIDGE
AND JULIE PACE
Associated Press

LACONA, Iowa — When President Donald Trump levied tariffs on China that scrambled global markets, farmer Randy Miller was willing to absorb the financial hit. Even as the soybeans in his fields about an hour south of Des Moines became less valuable, Miller saw long-term promise in Trump's efforts to rebalance America's trade relationship with Beijing.

"The farmer plays the long game," said Miller, who grows soybeans and corn and raises pigs in Lacona. "I look at my job through my son, my grandkids. So am I willing to suffer today to get this done to where I think it will be better for them? Yes."

But the patience of Miller and many other Midwest farmers with a president they mostly supported in 2016 is being put sorely to the test.

The trigger wasn't Trump's China tariffs, but the waivers the administration granted this month to 31 oil refineries so they don't have to blend ethanol into



JULIE PACE/AP

Farmers Randy Miller is shown with his soybeans last month at his farm in Lacona, Iowa. Miller, who also farms corn, is among farmers unhappy with President Donald Trump over waivers granted to oil refineries that have sharply reduced demand for corn-based ethanol.

their gasoline. Since roughly 40% of the U.S. corn crop is turned into ethanol, it was a fresh blow to corn producers already struggling with five years of low commodity prices and the threat of mediocre harvests this fall after some of the worst weather in years.

"That flashpoint was reached and the frustration boiled over, and this was the straw that broke the camel's back," said Lynn Chrisp, who grows corn and soybeans near Hastings, Neb., and is president of the National Corn Growers Association.

"I've never seen farmers so

tired, so frustrated, and they're to the point of anger," said Kelly Nieuwenhuis, a farmer from Primghar in northwest Iowa who said the waivers were a hot topic at a recent meeting of the Iowa Corn Growers Association. Nieuwenhuis said he voted for Trump in 2016, but now he's not sure who he'll support in 2020.

While Iowa farmer Miller saw Trump's brinkmanship with China as a necessary gamble to help American workers, the ethanol waivers smacked to him of favoritism for a wealthy and powerful industry — Big Oil.

"That's our own country stabbing us in the back," Miller said. "That's the president going, the oil companies need to make more than the American farmer. ... That was just, 'I like the oil company better or I'm friends with the oil company more than I'm friends with the farmer.'"

The Environmental Protection Agency in July kept its annual target for the level of corn ethanol that must be blended into the nation's gasoline supply under the Renewable Fuel Standard at 15 billion gallons for 2020. That was a deep disappointment to an ethanol industry that wanted

a higher target to offset exemptions granted to smaller refiners. Those waivers have cut demand by an estimated 2.6 billion gallons since Trump took office.

The 31 new waivers issued in August came on top of 54 granted since early 2018, according to the association. While the waivers are intended to reduce hardships on small oil refiners, some beneficiaries include smaller refineries owned by big oil companies.

Despite farmers' mounting frustrations, there's little evidence that many farmers who backed Trump in 2016 will desert him in 2020. Many are still pleased with his rollbacks in other regulations. Cultural issues such as abortion or gun rights are important to many of them. And many are wary of a Democratic Party they see as growing more liberal.

Chrisp, too, said he doesn't see an acceptable Democratic alternative. Still, he cautioned Republicans against taking farmers for granted.

"We're not a chip in the political game, though I'm certain there are folks who are political strategists who view us that way, but it's not the case," he said.

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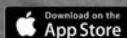
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NATION

Biden, Buttigieg uncompromising on guns

By THOMAS BEAUMONT
AND BILL BARROW
Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Democratic presidential candidates Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg, moderates who project themselves as pragmatic collaborators, are taking a no-compromise approach on the overhaul of the nation's gun laws after the latest mass shooting.

Campaigning separately in eastern Iowa on Monday, the former vice president and the mayor of South Bend, Ind., said the minimum provisions include universal background checks, a ban on military-style weapons and high-capacity ammunition, and red flag laws to allow officials to confiscate firearms from dangerous people.

Biden told reporters before a Labor Day picnic in Cedar Rapids that inaction from President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans is "disgraceful."

Asked if there's room for negotiation, he said: "None. This is one we have to just push and push and push and push and push."

Buttigieg also rejected compromise, saying after a campaign event in Cedar Rapids, "There is just no good faith in the congressional GOP nor, I believe, in the White House when it comes to dealing with this issue."

Their comments came two days after a gunman toted an assault-style rifle went on a rampage in Odessa, Texas, killing seven people around town before being runned down by police. The FBI said the shooter "was on a long spiral of going down."

That shooting occurred less than a month after two other high-profile mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio.

Biden's and Buttigieg's positions represent a rare case of absolutism from the two men. Despite their generational divide, at ages 76 and 37, both have staked their campaigns in part on calls for a more civil, productive governing process in Washington.

They both pointed to public opinion polls as support for their uncompromising approach.

According to national public



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Democratic presidential candidates South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, left, and former Vice President Joe Biden campaign at the Hawkeye Area Labor Council Labor Day Picnic on Monday in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Both are taking an uncompromising approach to overhauling the nation's gun laws.

Buttigieg works to build Iowa presence

Associated Press

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — In the back of a West Des Moines brewpub, a dozen supporters of Pete Buttigieg sipped craft beer and wine, scribbling the names of members of their social circles on campaign worksheets — clubs, yoga groups, jobs, school organizations.

Over the next hour, people like Julie DeMicco, a local middle school teacher, worked their smartphones in what Buttigieg's 2020 presidential campaign calls a "relational phone bank," calling and texting. DeMicco hoped to catch some of her teacher friends to test their interest.

"Doing just like cold calling is so awkward," DeMicco said. "Calling my friends for a couple minutes, it's fun and easy."

Her work may be easy, but

Buttigieg's is not. In Iowa, Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Ind., is well behind his better-known 2020 presidential rivals, who have spent months building a deep organizational structure in the state that marks the first test for the Democratic presidential nomination.

But thanks to his campaign taking in nearly \$25 million in contributions in the last quarter, money that he is using to help create an army of peerto-peer foot soldiers, Buttigieg is rapidly trying to catch up.

While Buttigieg's team has confidence in his strategy, particularly the component of aggressively multiplying the personal influence of his early supporters, he faces intense time pressure to put in place the pieces that could vault him into serious consideration.

"This is something that's

going to take some time," said Jess O'Connell, a Buttigieg senior strategist. "We are increasing our presence in cities and counties throughout Iowa. But the more time we have to build those relationships with Pete and voters, but also with the networks of people that are training and having conversations within their own communities about him, is good for us."

That's if they can build a large enough network fast enough. The contacts by people like DeMicco are hardly simple persuasion calls. They are part of an attempt to build a Buttigieg database, complete with measurable targets, of people on the spectrum of support, willing to volunteer, host events, even lead similar call sessions.

opinion polls for the past several years, large majorities of Americans support requiring background checks for all gun buyers. Majorities, though smaller, also

support banning the sale of military-style weapons such as the AR-15.

"Look, you can either defy the American people or you can defy

the NRA," Buttigieg said. "You have a choice."

Yet any movement to tighten gun laws has stopped cold for years with Republicans control-

ling one or both chambers of Congress.

Buttigieg and Biden both predicted that intransigence will draw voters' ire at the ballot box.

"If Republicans don't make that right choice this time, I think they will be punished with the loss of power. And maybe that's what it will take to motivate them to come a little more in line with the American people," Buttigieg said.

Added Biden, "It's going to result in seeing some of them defeated."

Trump expressed a commitment Sunday, hours after the latest deadly mass shooting, to work with a divided Congress to "stop the menace of mass attacks."

It notably came out in favor of background checks in 2018 after 17 students and adults were killed at a Parkland, Fla., high school, only to quickly retreat under pressure from the National Rifle Association. He's followed the same course after recent killings in California, Ohio and Texas.

Another Democratic presidential candidate, Amy Klobuchar, on Monday noted Trump's reversal.

"He flipped" after talking to the NRA, Klobuchar said. "That's what happens."

The Minnesota senator stopped short of taking the same stance as Biden and Buttigieg, however.

Klobuchar has co-sponsored a Senate proposal to ban military-style weapons. But she acknowledged that's more of a wish list item for Democrats given GOP control of the Senate.

For now, she said, the "minimum of what we should do" includes expanded background checks, the red flag laws and closing the so-called boyfriend loophole that deals with gun rights for perpetrators of domestic violence.

Federal law bars those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence against spouses and "similarly situated" companions from possessing firearms. The prohibition has been applied in cases of live-in companions, but Klobuchar argues it doesn't go far enough to protect some victims who don't live with their abuser.

Candidate Yang's plan for free money gets Calif. trial run

By ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

STOCKTON, Calif. — Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang wants to give cash to every American each month.

Susie Garza has never heard of Yang. But since February, she's been getting \$500 a month from a nonprofit in Stockton as part of an experiment that offers something unusual in presidential politics: a trial run of a campaign promise, highlighting the benefits and challenges in real time.

Garza can spend the money however she wants. She uses \$150 of it to pay for her cellphone and another \$100 or so to pay off her dog's veterinarian bills.

She spends the rest on her two grandsons now that she can afford to buy them birthday presents online and let them get the big bag of chips at the 7-Eleven.

"I've never been able to do that. I thought it was just the coolest thing," said Garza, who is unemployed and previously was addicted to drugs, though she said she has been sober for 18 years following a stint in prison.

"I like it because I feel more independent, like I'm in charge. I really have something that's my own," she said.

Garza is part of an experiment testing the impact of "universal basic income," an old idea getting new life thanks to the 2020 presidential race, although Stockton's proj-

ect is an independent one and has no connection to any presidential race.

Yang, a tech entrepreneur, has anchored his longest bid with a proposal to give \$1,000 in cash to every American, saying the payments will shield workers from the pain of certain job losses caused by automation.

Stockton, once known as the foreclosure capital of the country and for one of the nation's largest municipal bankruptcies, is a step ahead.

In February, the city launched the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration, a pilot program spearheaded by a new mayor and financed in part by the nonprofit led by Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes.

The city chose 125 people who earned at or below the city's median household income of \$46,033. They get the money on a debit card on the 15th of each month.

A team of researchers is monitoring the participants. Their chief interest is not finances but happiness. They are using what they call a "mattering scale" to measure how much people feel like they matter to society.

Yang's plan, which covers every adult in the United States, would cost \$2.8 trillion per year.

He would impose a new tax on businesses' goods and services while shrinking some other government assistance programs.

NATION



PHOTOS BY KENT NISHIMURA, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Mourad Gabriel, co-founder of the Integral Ecology Research Center, speaks during a tour for state and national officials of an illegal marijuana grow site in the Sierra National Forest in Whiskey Falls, Calif., on Aug. 20.

Illegal marijuana farms still scar public lands 2 years after Calif. legalized pot

By PIPER MCDANIEL
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — When California voters legalized cannabis in 2016, supporters of Proposition 64 hoped it would significantly reduce the scourge of black-market weed cultivation, particularly on public lands.

Yet nearly two years later, illegal marijuana grows are still rampant across wide swaths of the national forests in California, leaving behind a trail of garbage, human waste, dead animals and caustic chemicals. Nearly all of those farms are the work of Mexican drug trafficking organizations, posing dangers not just for the environment but to hikers and others who might encounter them.

In 2018, law enforcement in California removed more than 1.39 million marijuana plants and eradicated 889 outdoor cultivation sites, most of which were operated by Mexican drug traffickers on federal lands, according to the Central Valley California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.

"It's a huge problem," said William Ruzzamenti, executive director of the Central Valley HIDTA, which includes federal, state and local agencies. "They're growing tens of millions of plants every year on public lands in California, and they leave a huge mess when they finish."

One of those messes was visited last month by dozens of national and state officials, who arrived in the Sierra National Forest in a Black Hawk helicopter. There, in a stretch of forest in Madera County, they toured an illegal cultivation site — believed to be run by Mexican drug trafficking organizations that authorities had raided the day before.



The kitchen of the cultivation site is shown during the tour.

The site was just as the growers had left it: sleeping bags and ragged clothing, garbage littering the ground, miles of plastic pipes diverting water, a stockpile of fertilizers, soil and hazardous chemicals.

Nearly were roughly 6,000 springs, vibrantly green marijuana plants winding through the arid forest, oddly out of place, and doused with toxic chemicals.

Mexican cartels have been operating illegal grows on California's public lands for decades, their numbers slowly increasing. Advocates for legal marijuana thought a legal market would stem the illicit production, but the number of illegal grows has stayed steady in California. In other states, their numbers are on the rise.

Traffickers have become more adept at evading law enforcement and are expanding into new territories nationwide, said Mike McKinney, assistant special agent in charge for the U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region.

"They're getting deeper, darker and harder to find," said McKinney. "They're going into

areas that haven't seen human foot traffic in forever."

Grow sites run by Mexican traffickers have been found in states across the country, including Oregon, Washington, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and Texas. In 2018, law enforcement raided 3,847 outdoor grows nationwide, predominantly operated by organized drug traffickers on federal lands, according to HIDTA figures.

Those raided sites are estimated to be just a quarter of the illegal public land grows in existence.

Mourad Gabriel, co-director of the Integral Ecology Research Center, a conservation nonprofit that has led the efforts to clean up the sites and assess their impact, estimates there are more than 1,700 known sites in California alone.

"Illegal poaching, illegal cutting of trees, the application of illegal pesticides, the diverting of millions of gallons of water for just one site," said Gabriel.

"Extrapolating that to thousands of sites in California is a significant environmental threat."

Harry Potter series purged from library at Catholic school

By ANTONIA NOORI FARZAN
The Washington Post

Before the new school year began, the Rev. Dan Reehill turned to several exorcists for advice.

Reehill, a pastor at St. Edward Catholic School in Nashville, Tenn., was worried about the heretical lessons that students could learn from the Harry Potter books, he wrote in an Aug. 28 email to faculty members that was obtained by Nashville television station WTVF. At the advice of the exorcists he consulted, who shared his concerns, he purged the series from the school's library.

"These books present magic as both good and evil, which is not true but, in fact, a clever deception," he explained. "The curses and spells used in the books are actual curses and spells which, when read by a human being, risk conjuring evil spirits into the presence of the person reading the text."

It's hardly the first time that the novels — chronicling the adventures and coming-of-age of a young wizard — have been kicked off school campuses. Yet the furor over allegations of Satanism and devil worship has died down in recent years, and the choice to remove Harry Potter books from the St. Edward's library appears to have garnered little support from the school community, according to WTVF.

Parents who aired their concerns Monday in an anonymous letter shared with the station suggested that the decision raised larger questions about the priest's "fringe" views and his ability to "critically assess and discern fact from fiction," and it complained that the decision had been made unilaterally without input from parents or other school administrators.

In an emailed response to parents obtained by the station, Rebecca Hammel, the superintendent of schools for the Catholic Diocese of Nashville, explained that the school's library had moved over the summer, and books that weren't checked out often or weren't deemed age-appropriate for students at the prekindergarten-through-eighth-grade school were purged. The school's pastor, "out of an abundance of caution," decided that the Harry Potter series, which "has received attention over its presentation of magic and witchcraft," should also be removed, she wrote.

Located on the south side of Nashville for more than 60 years, St. Edward is "guided by faith and committed to educational excellence," according to the school's

mission statement. Attendance at Christian doctrine classes and twice-weekly Mass is mandatory, and the school says that the purpose of its library is to "encourage students to embrace and model the gospel of Jesus Christ by providing materials that support the values and mission of the Catholic Church."

According to Reehill's email to faculty members, the Harry Potter series does not meet that standard.

"The books use nefarious means to attain the goals of the characters, including the 'good' characters," he wrote, arguing that an act cannot be considered morally good under Catholic

theology if it is accomplished through questionable methods. "The Harry Potter books," he claimed, "promote a Machiavellian approach to achieving the ends they desire with whatever means are necessary."

Reehill also claimed that the books "glorify acts of divination, of conjuring the dead, of casting spells among other acts that are an offense to the virtue of religion," and that readers "could be persuaded to believe these acts are perfectly fine, even good or spiritually healthy." He concluded, "Books and other materials which present a possible threat to our faith will not be promoted by our church or school."

According to The Tennessee newspaper, which first reported on the edict, Hammel confirmed the authenticity of the email and said it was sent after a parent asked why the books were gone. Because the Catholic Church has not taken an official position on the Harry Potter series, the school's pastor has the authority to pull the books from its library shelves, she added. To her knowledge, no other schools in the diocese have done so.

Hammel also told the paper that the diocese doesn't "get into censorship" beyond making sure that the books in school libraries are age-appropriate. The Catholic Church believes it's up to parents to determine what's appropriate for their children and "guide their sons and daughters to understand the content through the lens of our faith," she said.

NATION

Grand Canyon officials plan 2nd run at corralling bison

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — In the two years since Grand Canyon officials approved a plan to reduce the number of bison roaming in the national park, the herd has only grown in size.

No one is sure exactly how many of the massive animals call far northern Arizona home because they're hard to count amid the Ponderosa pine trees, but it's in the hundreds. Left unchecked, the herd could reach 1,500 in several years, severely damaging the landscape and water resources, park officials say.

The reduction plan has been hampered by weather and disagreements over how to kill some of the bison if shipping them off isn't enough. The Grand Canyon staff tried to round up some animals last year, but wintry weather set in and the bison headed farther north on a plateau.

Park officials are taking a second run at capturing this month. "We're getting a little late

start," said Jan Balsom, a senior adviser at the park.

The Grand Canyon bison are descendants of those introduced to northern Arizona in the early 1900s as part of a ranching operation to crossbreed them with cattle. The state of Arizona now owns them and has an annual draw for tags on the neighboring Kaibab National Forest.

The National Park Service released a plan in September 2017 that called for a mix of corralling the animals near the highway that leads to the Grand Canyon's North Rim and for skilled volunteers to shoot a certain number of bison inside and outside the park. It has made no significant progress on guidelines for lethal options.

The Park Service fenced off watering holes on the North Rim to try to force bison into the national forest, where they legally can be hunted. But it didn't keep the bison out.

The 25 hunters who drew tags in a state hunt earlier this year came up nearly empty-handed, bagging

just two animals. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission recently amended the spring hunts for 2020 and 2021 to give hunters more time overall to kill bison.

Meanwhile, the animals' population is growing.

Park officials hope to corral dozens of the animals at the North Rim, where the bison breed exclusively after hunting pressure forced them out of the forest about a decade ago. It uses thumb-size pellets to lure the bison into 8-foot-high corrals that can hold up to 100 animals.

Balsom said park officials plan to sort animals that are captured in September and give them to Native American tribes across the U.S. that request them through the Intertribal Buffalo Council. The agreement with the Park Service says none of the animals can be slaughtered within the first year, she said.

Officials hoped to ship out 50 animals in 2018 but the bison left, traveling about a mile outside the park boundary, bison project manager Miranda Terwilliger



Russ Jacobi/AP

Bison are seen in far northern Arizona. Grand Canyon officials are planning a second attempt at corralling the bison roaming the park in an effort to reduce their growing numbers.

said late last year. "We were ready to move them. It was a bummer to have to call it off," she said.

The goal is to reduce the bison herd to 200 within five years, Balsom said.

The lethal option is contentious. A recording on a Grand Canyon hotline for information on the bison has said for more than a year that the park is still developing plans to allow skilled volunteers to legally kill the animals.

The state wildlife commission ordered the Arizona Game and Fish Department to cut off talks with the Park Service in January 2018 because it prefers hunters do the work and keep their prey, regional Game and Fish supervisor Scott Poppenger said.

"That would be a substantial game-changer in moving the ball

forward," he said. It's a conflict that has played out in other national parks where hunting is banned.

In Montana, former Gov. Brian Schweitzer and state legislators over the years have urged Yellowstone National Park to allow bison hunting to keep a rare but contagious bacterial infection in check. The idea was met with stiff resistance from park administrators and has gone nowhere.

Under a 2001 agreement between federal and state officials, thousands of bison attempting to migrate to winter feeding grounds outside Yellowstone have been captured and sent to slaughter. Others are killed by state-licensed hunters or Native Americans who hold treaty rights to harvest the animals.

Woodstock sequel in Louisiana deemed a peaceful success

By KEVIN MCGILL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — August 1969. Thousands of long-haired young people, some nude or nearly so, populate the rural landscape. Janis Joplin, Santana and the Grateful Dead are among the featured acts, and the air is thick with the sound of rock and the smell of marijuana.

Woodstock? Nope. Prairieville. Prairieville, La.

Fifty years ago, in Woodstock's wake, an estimated 30,000 people jammed into or camped outside a speedway in Prairieville, 65 miles west-northwest of New Orleans, for what was dubbed the New Orleans Pop Festival. It was a bayou country reenactment of sorts.

It was smaller than Woodstock, which had drawn an estimated 400,000 to farmland in New York two weeks earlier. But there was a similar hippie vibe at the Louisiana festival, said John Moore, aka Deacon John, the New Orleans guitar virtuoso and vocalist who is still performing 50 years later.

He wanted to emulate Woodstock by showing that New Orleans, despite its location in the Deep South, which was, you know, the harbingers of hatred and evil and racism — and all the anti-war stuff was going on — we wanted to show them that New Orleans could have a festival, too, without any violence," Moore said in an interview.

He was in his New Orleans

home, crowded with guitars and other instruments, folders crammed with sheet music and memorabilia including a poster and program from the festival.

Some of the widely famous acts that played Woodstock also played at Prairieville, including Creedence Clearwater Revival, Canned Heat and Country Joe & the Fish, whose "I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die-Rag" became an anti-Vietnam war anthem.

Jimmi Hendrix was not there to repeat his Woodstock performance. But Deacon John, then 28, was.

He recalls giving the crowd a taste of Hendrix with song selection — "We played 'Foxy Lady'" — and attire. "I had my tie-dyed headband on, with my bell-bottom blue jeans and my tie-dyed shirt," Moore said.

Clad in what is now his customary performance garb — jacket, tie, short-brimmed hat — he beamed at the memory of the festival, showing off a poster and program and pictures of himself in the '60s sporting an Afro and mutton-chop sideburns.

One archived news account says a dozen people were arrested for the sale and possession of marijuana and that doctors reported treating about 30 for bad LSD trips.

Nobody could say that anyone who wound up in jail or ill hadn't been warned. The program urged abstinence from drugs from uncertain sources that might be "improperly manufactured."

A poster prominently warned



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Deacon John Moore shows a photo of himself performing approximately 50 years ago as he talks at his home in New Orleans about the 1969 New Orleans Pop Festival.

of plainclothes detectives in the crowd. Festival promoters explained in the program they went to great lengths to persuade speedway owners and local authorities to let the festival happen.

"Festival staff would like to remind you that there are people outside of this stadium who don't dig the sounds you'll hear this weekend, who don't like our hair, or our clothes, or our ideas, and they are waiting for us to blow our cool," the program said. There were similar festivals that weekend in Lewiston, Texas,

and Tenino, Wash., and all three went off with no reports of major incidents. Traffic backups were reported near the Prairieville site, but an Associated Press story following the festival's close was largely positive.

Among those pleased: "The area merchants ... who reaped a harvest from the flower children and were astonished at their unexpected good behavior."

Subsequent festivals have had their ups and downs. Months later, a festival at Altamont Speedway in California would be marked

by violence, including a stabbing death. In 1971, another attempt to produce a Woodstock-inspired fest in the community of McCrea, La., was deemed a chaotic, drug-infused failure, linked to at least two drowning deaths in the Atchafalaya River. The travails were chronicled in news accounts and a documentary, "McCrae 1971," made by two Southeastern Louisiana University students.

But, 50 years later, the New Orleans Pop Festival appears to have been a peaceful, hippie-era success.

WORLD

Hong Kong leader denies wanting to resign

BY KATIE LAM
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Tuesday she has never tendered her resignation to China over the anti-government protests that have roiled the city for three months.

Lam was asked repeatedly at a news briefing about a Reuters report on Monday citing leaked audio of her telling business leaders recently that she would quit if she had a choice.

"I have never tendered a resignation to the central body's government. I have not even contemplated to discuss a resignation ... the choice of not resigning was my own choice," Lam said when asked why Beijing refused to let her quit.

"I know it is not going to be an easy path, and that's why I have said that I have not given myself the choice to take an easier path and that is to leave."

Lam also slammed the recording and



JAE C. HONG/AP

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, shown at a press conference Tuesday, denied a report she wanted to resign.

leaking of her comments from the private meeting as "unacceptable."

Lam was elected as Hong Kong's chief executive by a pro-Beijing committee of Hong Kong elites, and the mainland government has spoken in support of her government and the city's police force throughout

the sometimes violent protests.

The demonstrators who have filled parks and streets regularly since early June want democratic reforms to Hong Kong's government and an independent inquiry into police actions against protesters.

Lam has come under withering criticism for pushing an extradition bill that would allow Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China for trials. She has suspended the bill, but the protesters want it entirely withdrawn.

Clashes between police and protesters have become increasingly violent, with demonstrators throwing gasoline bombs and rods at officers in protests last weekend. Authorities in turn have employed water cannons, tear gas, rubber bullets and batons. More than 1,100 people have been detained.

Lam said Tuesday that the "one country, two systems" formula under which the former British colony was returned to China in 1997 would be upheld. The formula

promised greater civil rights in Hong Kong than those afforded to mainland China, but Hong Kong residents have expressed worries that promise is eroding.

She also said the Chinese government believes that the Hong Kong government can overcome the conflict on its own without any interference. Some have expressed fear the Chinese military would crack down on the protests.

Lam said she doesn't know how long it will take to end the civil disobedience but that she remains confident of restoring law and order.

The mostly young protesters say that a degree of violence is necessary to get the government's attention after peaceful rallies were futile. Lam's administration says the violence must end before any dialogue can begin.

In Beijing, the mainland office responsible for Hong Kong slammed the escalating violence and warned that China will "not sit idly by" if the situation worsens.



NICK PERRY/AP

Police Senior Sgt. Braydon Lenihan holds a banned gun that has been bent by a hydraulic machine outside a temporary gun collection venue in Porirua, New Zealand, last month.

New Zealand navigates gun buyback

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Some New Zealand gun owners are upset they're being compelled to hand over their assault weapons for money. Others believe a government-imposed ban on certain semi-automatics following a March shooting massacre is the best way to combat gun violence.

New Zealand is six weeks into an ambitious program to buy tens of thousands of guns from owners across the country. After a lone gunman killed 51 people at two Christchurch mosques nearly six months ago, the government rushed through new laws banning military-style semi-automatics in a move that's being closely followed around the world.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told The Associated Press in July that most New Zealanders disagree with the U.S. model under which gun ownership is seen as a constitutional right. The new laws in New Zealand emphasize that gun ownership is instead considered a privilege.

So far, owners have turned in more than 15,000 newly banned guns as well as 64,000 parts and accessories. In return, the government has handed

them \$20 million. But nobody has a clear target for the program because authorities haven't kept track of the number of guns in the country.

Tentative estimates put the total number of guns in New Zealand at about 1.5 million and the number of weapons that are now banned at up to 175,000. If those numbers are correct, it would mean less than 10% of the banned weapons have been handed in so far. Owners have until Dec. 20 to turn them over or potentially face charges.

Some politicians and opponents say the buyback scheme is a fiasco that is unfairly targeting law-abiding gun owners rather than criminals or gangs.

However, Police Deputy Commissioner Mike Clement, a 40-year veteran tapped to oversee the scheme, says it has been working well. He's been traveling the country to some of the dozens of buyback events, and said nobody really knows how many banned guns are out there so any estimates are unhelpful.

Under the buyback scheme, gun owners get between 25% and 95% of the pre-tax price of a new gun, depending on the condition of their guns. Police take bank details from owners and usually de-

Japan urges nuclear plants to prepare for decommissioning era

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's nuclear policy-setting body adopted a report Monday saying the country is entering an era of massive nuclear plant decommissioning, urging plant operators to plan ahead to lower safety risks and costs requiring decades and billions of dollars.

Twenty-four commercial reactors — or 40% of Japan's total — are designated for or are being decommissioned. Among them are four reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant that were severely damaged by the massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan.

The annual nuclear white paper, adopted by the Japan Atomic Energy Commission, urges utilities to learn from U.S. and European examples, especially those of Germany, France and Britain. Japan hasn't yet completed the decommissioning of any reactors and doesn't have concrete plans for the final disposal of radioactive waste.

"Taking into consideration further increase of nuclear facilities that will be decommissioned, new technology and systems need to be developed in order to carry out the tasks efficiently and smoothly," the report said. "It's a whole new stage that we have to proceed to and tackle."

Japanese utilities have opted to scrap aged reactors instead of investing in safety requirements under post-Fukushima standards. The decommissioning of a typical reactor costs nearly \$560 million and takes several decades.

Before the Fukushima disaster, Japan had 60 commercial reactors that provided about 25% of the country's energy needs.

Despite the government's re-

newed ambitions for nuclear power, reactor restarts are proceeding slowly as nuclear regulators spend more time on inspections. Meanwhile, anti-nuclear sentiment persists among the public and makes it more difficult for plant operators to obtain local consent in making revisions to their facilities. Any plan related to nuclear waste storage tends to get strong resistance.

Since the Fukushima accident, only nine reactors in Japan have restarted, accounting for about 3% of the country's energy supply, compared with the government's ambitious 20% to 22% target.

In July, Tokyo Electric Power Holdings Co., or TEPCO, announced plans to decommission all four reactors at its second Fukushima plant, Fukushima Dai-ni, which narrowly avoided meltdowns in 2011. The move followed eight years of demands by the local government and residents for the reactors' closure.

TEPCO said the decommissioning of Fukushima Dai-ni alone would cost \$3.9 billion and would take four decades, but experts have raised concerns about whether those estimates are realistic for a company already struggling with the ongoing cleanup of the wrecked Fukushima plant, estimated to cost about \$75 billion.

Japan Atomic Power Co., which has been decommissioning its Tokai nuclear plant since 2001, announced in March that it was pushing back the planned completion of the project by five years to 2030 because the company still has been unable to remove and store highly radioactive materials from the core. The decommissioning of the government's Tokai fuel reprocessing facility is expected to take 70 years and cost \$7.2 billion.

WORLD

Iranian oil tanker pursued by US turns off tracker

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An Iranian oil tanker pursued by the U.S. turned off its tracking beacon, leading to renewed speculation on Tuesday that it will head to Syria.

The disappearance of the Adrian Darya 1, formerly known as the Grace 1, follows a pattern of Iranian oil tankers turning off their Automatic Identification System to try and mask where they deliver their cargo amid U.S. sanctions targeting Iran's energy industry.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani reiterated on Tuesday that Tehran will not enter into direct talks with the U.S. unless Washington rejoins the 2015 nuclear deal that President Donald Trump withdrew America from more than a year ago.

Trump's withdrawal and the imposition of heavy economic sanctions on Iran have blocked it from selling its crude oil abroad, a crucial source of government funding for the Islamic Republic.

Meanwhile, tensions have

spiked across the Persian Gulf over mysterious tanker explosions, the shooting down of a U.S. military surveillance drone by Iran and America deploying more troops and warplanes to the region.

The Adrian Darya, which carries 2.1 million barrels of Iranian crude worth some \$130 million, switched off its AIS beacon just before 16:00 GMT Monday, or about 4 p.m., according to the ship-tracking website MarineTraffic.com. The ship was some 45 nautical miles off the coast of Lebanon and Syria, heading north at its last report.

Earlier, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had alleged the U.S. had intelligence that the Adrian Darya would head to the Syrian port of Tartus, just a short distance from its last reported position.

The actions of the Adrian Darya follow a pattern of other Iranian ships turning off their trackers once they near Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea, said Ranjith Raja, a lead analyst at the data firm Refinitiv.

Based on the fact Turkey has stopped taking Iranian crude oil and Syria historically has taken

about 1 million barrels of crude oil a month from Iran, Raja said it was likely the ship would be offloading its cargo in Syria. That could see it transfer crude oil onto smaller vessels, allowing it to be taken to port, he said.

"The Iranian oil going to Syria is not something new," Raja said.

"This is a known fact." Theoilshipment website Tanker Trackers similarly believes the Adrian Darya to be off Syria.

"It is now safe to assume she is in Syria's territorial waters," Tanker Trackers wrote on Twitter on Tuesday.

Iranian officials haven't identified who bought the Adrian Darya's cargo, only that it has been sold.

The U.S., which has sought to seize the tanker, alleged in federal court that the ship is owned by Iran's Revolutionary Guard,

a paramilitary organization answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The U.S. recently declared the Guard a terrorist organization, giving it greater power to pursue seizing its assets.

U.S. officials since have warned countries not to aid the Adrian Darya, which previously said it would be heading to Greece and Turkey before turning off its tracker Monday. Authorities in Gibraltar alleged the ship was bound for a refinery in Baniyas, Syria, when they seized it in early July. They let it go after holding it for weeks.

Meanwhile, Rouhani addressed Iran's parliament on Tuesday and touched on ongoing negotiations aimed at saving the country's unraveling nuclear deal. Under the landmark 2015 agreement, Iran agreed to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed last week that Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium still exceeds the amount allowed by the deal. The U.N. agency also said Iran continues to enrich uranium up to 4.5%,

above the 3.67% allowed under the deal but still far below weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Iran has warned it will take additional steps away from the accord Friday if it doesn't get help from Europe to sell its oil abroad, calling it their "third step" away from the deal. An Iranian lawmaker has suggested France is proposing a \$15 billion credit line for Tehran if it returns to the deal.

Rouhani told lawmakers that Iran wouldn't negotiate directly with the U.S. unless it returned to the deal. That's after speculation grew of a possible meeting between Trump and Iranian officials following an appearance by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the Group of Seven meeting in August.

"Unfortunately, after America's violation (of the deal) and treachery and its getting out of its commitments, the Europeans too either failed to carry out their duties or couldn't do so or both," Rouhani told parliament.

Rouhani added, "If [the Europeans] don't do anything significant, we surely will take the third step in the coming days."

Pound slides in Brexit; drops to its lowest level in 34 years

By CARLO PIVANO
Associated Press

LONDON — The pound dropped Tuesday to its lowest level against the dollar since 1985, excluding a brief "flash crash" in 2016 that may have been caused by technical glitches, as international investors fret over a political showdown over Brexit this week.

The British currency fell as low as \$1.1960, down almost a cent on the day before stabilizing at about \$1.1990. Not counting the brief plunge in the autumn of 2016, in which the currency fell to \$1.1789 for about two minutes before re-

covering, the pound is now at its lowest level in 34 years.

Brexit is facing a crucial few days as lawmakers challenge Prime Minister Boris Johnson's insistence that the U.K. will leave the European Union on Oct. 31 even without a deal.

Parliament is returning from its summer recess Tuesday with a key piece of legislation on its agenda that would see it take control of the Parliament's agenda. If that passes, the lawmakers are expected to vote to block the government from bringing the country out of the EU without a deal, which many experts say would cause chaos for people and busi-

nesses as border checks and tariffs resume, among other things.

Johnson has tried to crack down on members of his Conservative Party who oppose his Brexit plans, warning them they would be expelled from the party if they supported parliamentary efforts to block or delay Brexit. Johnson's office also says he would call an early election, with uncertain consequences.

"Markets are extremely negative about the consequences of a no-deal scenario," said Alex Leighton, an analyst at the brokerage FXPro. "The pound will have a hard time if (the lawmakers') initiatives fail."

Iraq suspends US-funded TV station for 3 months over program on alleged corruption

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi authorities on Monday suspended the license of a U.S.-funded TV station for three months after it aired a program on alleged corruption within Iraq's Sunni and Shiite religious establishments.

The investigative report that aired Saturday on Alhurra accused senior religious figures of benefiting from businesses as a result of their connections with the state.

The report triggered an outcry on social media, with some

politicians demanding that the station's offices in Iraq be closed down.

The Communication and Media Commission, the country's media regulator, demanded Monday a public apology from Alhurra and suspended its work for three months, accusing it of bias and defamation in its report.

In a statement, Alhurra described its report as "fair, professional and balanced." It said it had given ample opportunity for those mentioned in the report to respond but they had refused.

It said the station is committed to accuracy, impartiality and objectivity. "Given the political, economic and social challenges facing the region, transparency and honesty in media reporting are urgently needed," it said.

The report alleged widespread corruption within the state's Sunni and Shiite Muslim endowments, which administer religious holy sites and real estate.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad said the State Department has no censorship authority over the content of Alhurra.



JACOB KING, PA/AP

Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Coveeney, left, meets Vice President Mike Pence for the start of Pence's official visit to Ireland on Monday. An aide defended Pence's decision to stay at one of President Donald Trump's properties during the visit.

Pence aide defends VP's stay at Trump's Ireland property

Associated Press

DOONBEG, Ireland — Vice President Mike Pence's staff is defending his decision to stay at one of President Donald Trump's properties while in Ireland amid criticism by Democrats that he's enriching Trump at taxpayers' expense.

Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, said Tuesday that the decision to stay at Trump International Golf Links in Doonbeg was made at Trump's "suggestion"

and that Pence and his entourage won't be staying for free.

Short said Pence's office followed protocol and received State Department sign-off. He said the club is the "one facility" in the Doonbeg area that can accommodate Pence's team.

Pence is traveling with his wife, his mother and his sister. Short said Pence is personally covering costs for his mother and his sister.

Pence is commuting into Dublin for meetings with Irish officials.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hunters nab a giant as alligator season opens

MS GAUTIER — Soon after alligator season opened at noon Friday with favorable conditions, two Mississippi hunters caught a giant that could break a state record.

Derrick Saucier, of Pascagoula, and Jarrod Davis, of Hurley, were making passes of Mary Walker Bayou in Gautier when they spotted the large gator, according to the Clarion Ledger. Saucier said the alligator was known in the area.

Saucier said they spotted the alligator about 11:57 a.m. and that he felt like a kid on Christmas Eve as the minutes ticked down to the opening of the season. A few minutes later the pair had hooked the 13-foot, 6-inch alligator and then spent 90 minutes battling it.

1790s general store getting new owner

VT PUTNEY — A Vermont general store that dates to the 1790s is getting a new owner.

The Putney Historical Society is set to close the sale of the Putney General Store on Wednesday, and incoming owners Mike and Kim Cosco are slated to take over the store the next day, the Brattleboro Reformer reported.

The building has been managed for more than two years by the historical society's Betsy McIsaac and Lyssa Papazian since shortly after the death of the previous owner. The store was built in 1796.

Black Hills National Forest getting bigger

SD CUSTER — The U.S. Forest Service has purchased an additional 350 acres for the Black Hills National Forest for preservation of wildlife habitat and protection of at-risk watersheds and impaired streams.

The Rapid City Journal reported the Forest Service announced the purchase Aug. 28 from the Trust for Public Land.

The land was owned by the Myrle G. Case Trust, care of Wells Fargo Bank. It was bought with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Apps help farmers time treatment for crops

WI BLACK RIVER FALLS — Rain that inundated Wisconsin this spring after a wet fall and winter forced farmers to plant their crops historically late and that has led to uneven growth stages.

Plant pathologist Damon Smith, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said that has made it difficult for farmers to decide when to apply fungicide to crops because it's based on specific plant growth stages.

But an app is helping farmers make better decisions about when to do so, Wisconsin Public Radio reported.

Smith said one of his programs developed smartphone apps to help. One, called Sporecaster, lets



JOSE F. MORENO, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

The lion's share of comfort

A woman carries her dog for a walk along Broad Street in Philadelphia on Sunday.

farmers input data like location and plant growth to help predict the best time to treat for white mold in soybeans.

Contaminated water leads to beach closures

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis park officials said contaminated water have led to a record number of beach closures this summer.

Half of the city's 17 beaches were not safe to swim in at various times during the summer. That's the most since Minneapolis started a water sampling program in 2003, Minnesota Public Radio reported.

Park officials said heavy rainfall was part of the problem. Officials said heavy rain brings in storm water runoff and that runoff brings in debris and bacteria from streets and yards.

Man arrested after car driven into City Hall

MD TANEYTOWN — Police in a Maryland city arrested a "disgruntled resident" accused of intentionally ramming his car into City Hall and damaging the building, the city's mayor said Sunday.

The driver didn't injure the lone Taneytown city employee who was in City Hall on Friday evening when the car plowed into it, Mayor Bradley Wantz said.

THE CENSUS

112

The number of years the Plaza 1907 Cinema has been in business. The cinema in Ottawa, Kan., is the oldest continuously operating movie theater in the world. It opened on May 22, 1907, when black and white, silent movies ruled the day. The Plaza applied for inclusion in the Guinness World Records in 2017, and last year it achieved the distinction of being the "World's Oldest Operating Purpose-Built Cinema" after it was determined it was two days older than another movie house in Denmark.

The Taneytown Police Department said in a statement posted on its Facebook page that the driver was arrested on charges including second-degree assault, second-degree burglary, reckless driving and malicious destruction of property.

The police statement doesn't name the suspect.

Police said witnesses saw the car repeatedly strike the building. Wantz said during a telephone interview that the man was angry because his water service had been shut off for failure to pay his bill.

Persian cat missing 3 years back with family

MI IONIA — A Persian cat that was missing for three years has been reunited with her family in Grand Rapids.

The Ionia Sentinel-Standard reported that Violet was found in Ionia on Aug. 6.

She was barely able to stand and was covered in maggots, flies

and fleas.

Ionia County Animal Control Director Carly Quinn took Violet to a vet who was able to identify the 10-year-old because she is microchipped.

It took more effort to track down her humans, 30 miles away.

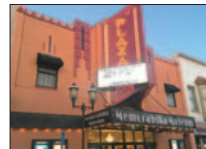
Drew Potter adopted Violet from the Humane Society in 2012, but the contact information on the chip was outdated. Quinn persisted and found him on Facebook after a few hours.

Zoo to change giraffe herd after 4 deaths

OH TOLEDO — The Toledo Zoo plans to change its giraffe herd after a series of deaths.

Four of the zoo's Masai giraffes have died since 2016, including two in the last two months.

Its curator of mammals, Michael Frushour, told The Blade newspaper the zoo is talking about switching to reticulated giraffes. He said it's believed that



subspecies isn't as prone to some of the health issues seen with Masai giraffes.

An 8-year-old male giraffe, Trevor, collapsed Aug. 24 while on exhibit and died within minutes. His female offspring, Binti, had to be euthanized in June.

Lab results showed both had severe anemia, adding to the suspicion of a genetic issue.

Program for Navy Reserve officers set

ME ORONO — The University of Maine is launching a new program for Navy Reserve officers.

WABI-TV reported that the five-year program will lead to students becoming commissioned naval officers.

The university has selected 10 students based on their academic qualifications, leadership qualities and interest in pursuing science and engineering fields.

From wire reports

FACES

Scary to be 'The King'

Chalamet says Henry V role was terrifying, amazing

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Timothée Chalamet is already one of the most acclaimed young actors working today, but he says that the prospect of playing young Henry V in "The King" was terrifying.

"It was a real challenge for me," Chalamet said Monday at the Venice International Film Festival, where the film is having its world premiere. "It was terrifying at the same time, but I had an amazing time."

He was drawn to the project simply because he was out of his wheelhouse. The 23-year-old has been nominated for an Oscar, but he's never done stunts, worked with swords or played a role quite like this. Not many people his age have.

The film is drawn from Shakespeare's "Henry V" as well as "Henry IV" parts one and two. Co-writer and co-star Joel Edgerton, who plays Falstaff, had a formative experience doing the plays. But they'd often cast older actors who had the perceived gravitas and experience for the part.

"There was a real aversion to using younger actors for these roles," Chalamet said. "At the time power was wielded by unusually young people... That felt new and unique to explore."

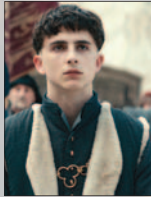
He said there is something "disturbed" about young people having so much power.

The film follows young Henry, or Hal, from his drunken days in Eastcheap to his early days as King of England, a position he never wanted and takes reluctantly when his father, Henry IV (Ben Mendelsohn), dies.

David Michod ("War Machine") co-wrote the

script with Edgerton and co-wrote the movie even though he never saw himself doing a "swords and horses" epic. But he was intrigued to put his own spin on the plays, adding things from history and making up, "A whole bunch of stuff."

When asked about Robert Pattinson playing a dandy version of the Dauphin — the son of King Charles of France — and whether or not that was



Netflix

Chalamet, in "The King"

rooted in history, Michod said, "I honestly can't remember what's real, what's made up and what's from Shakespeare."

But, he added, having worked with Pattinson before on "The Rover," that it was "important to me that when he appeared in the movie, he does so with razzle dazzle."

"The King" is playing out of competition at Venice, and is one of three Netflix films, including "The Laundromat" and "Marriage Story," making their debut on the Lido. It will open in theaters Oct. 11, before hitting Netflix on Nov. 1.

Chalamet, meanwhile, also has "Little Women" coming to theaters this Christmas, reuniting him with his "Lady Bird" director Greta Gerwig.

"I'm really trying to just do great projects and things that are challenging," Chalamet said. "I feel I'm really still learning and trying to chase whatever best version of an actor I can be."



Actor Timothée Chalamet attends the premiere of "The King" Monday at the Venice Film Festival.

ARTHUR MOLA, INVISION/AP

Wife says Kevin Hart 'going to be just fine' after car crash

Comic actor Kevin Hart's wife says he's "going to be just fine" after a car crash that left him with a major back injury.

Eniko Hart was questioned by a TMZ reporter while visiting him at the hospital Monday. She gave no details.

Hart was a passenger in a 1970 Plymouth Barracuda that went off a highway above Malibu, Calif., on the early-morning hours Sunday. It rolled down an embankment, after police said the driver lost control while turning from a canyon road onto Mulholland Highway.

Hart, 40, and the car's driver, Jared Black, both had back injuries.

Tribute concert of Avicii's music to benefit mental health

A benefit concert for suicide prevention featuring the music of the late star Avicii is being planned for Dec. 5 in Stockholm.

Proceeds will support the work of the new "Tim Bergling Foundation," named for the Swedish musician who committed suicide in April 2018. His songs "Wake Me Up," "Addicted to You" and the posthumous "SOS" topped the dance music charts.

The concert will feature many of the singers, including Adam Lambert and Rita Ora, who were on Avicii's recordings. It will be the first time many of the songs have been performed live.

From The Associated Press

From Tarantino temptress to Pete Davidson partnership, Qualley having a breakout season

By MARTHA ROSS
The Mercury News

Maybe Pete Davidson has a thing for brunettes after a year of dating Ariana Grande and Kate Beckinsale.

Or maybe the "Saturday Night Live" star was enticed, as Brad Pitt was, by the way willowy brunette actress Margaret Qualley plays a particular scene in Quentin Tarantino's new hit film, "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood."

In the scene, Qualley is a teenage follower of Charles Manson who hitches a ride to Spain Ranch with Pitt's stuntman character Cliff Booth. In free-love hippie mode, Qualley's "Pussycat" flirts with Booth by stretching out in the front seat of his car.

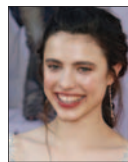
The soles of Qualley's feet are noticeably dirty, but that's apparently part of Tarantino's idea of fetishistic, counterculture allure. Dirty feet are also in keeping with Pussycat being a member of ragtag murderous cult whose members go dumpster diving for food.

News hit last week that Qualley, 24, was dating 25-year-old Davidson, who was last seen yelling at students in a standup gig at University of Central Florida.

Us Weekly cites a source who says the two have been seeing each other for a

couple months "and Margaret is really excited about him."

The source added that the pair planned to make their red carpet debut at the Venice Film Festival. Qualley plays a supporting role in the Jean Seberg biopic



Qualley

"Seberg," starring Kristen Stewart, which premieres at the festival.

But before news emerged about Qualley's love life, the actress was having a pretty excellent summer. Critics say she's the breakout star of Tarantino's ode to fame and 1960s

Hollywood, with Vulture describing that car-ride scene with Pitt as her big moment to shine.

Qualley, whose mother is model and actress Andie MacDowell, admitted in an interview that she was rather nervous about showing her bare feet on screen.

"I genuinely was like, 'Quentin, this is a bad idea. I don't have good feet,'" Qualley told IndieWire. "I was in pointed (dance) shoes for far too long to have toes that can be shown to the world."

But Tarantino insisted, and Qualley eventually "did the foot thing" and with no regrets. "I used to actually be pretty mortified with my feet," Qualley told EW. "Maybe I can finally just give up that now."

Meanwhile, Qualley might have some fun with Davidson, though she better be prepared for an intense new level of media attention. After all, Davidson became the subject of gossip headlines over the past year because of his whirlwind engagement to singer Grande and for his fling with "older" actress Beckinsale, 46. The Beckinsale affair was marked by paparazzi photos of the couple making out at a New York Rangers hockey game.

But in dating Davidson and having him as her arm candy at the Venice Film Festival, Qualley also might be solidifying her star power, Vulture said. Qualley previously dated Oakland, Calif.-born director Cary Fukunaga, who is 18 years her senior, according to reports.

"Showing off the internet's favorite plaything at a prestigious film exhibition is perhaps the definition of a boss move," said Vulture, which also predicted that the autumn will bring an onslaught of paparazzi shots of Davidson and Qualley, sitting courtside at a Knicks game or walking through Soho.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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944

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OPINION

Trump deserves a real primary challenge

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg News

What is the point of a primary campaign against President Donald Trump? Denying him the Republican presidential nomination in 2020 is not realistic. While some Republicans still oppose Trump, they're a small fraction of the party. Many other Republicans have reservations and objections to Trump, but don't want to see a Democrat in the White House. (An increasing fear of handing the presidency to the other party is likely the reason incumbent presidents have rarely faced primary challenges in recent decades.)

The prospects are too daunting for ambitious politicians to jump into the race. Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, who may have a future as a Republican in national office, won't run. The reluctance of such figures leaves anti-Trump Republicans with less compelling candidates.

Bill Weld, former governor of Massachusetts, last won an election 25 years ago. Joe Walsh served one term as a congressman from Illinois; that fact alone is party affiliation are the only things he has in common with Abraham Lincoln. Mark Sanford has experience with a primary campaign that beat an incumbent — but he was the incumbent in question, losing the nomination for his House seat last year. Trump's strength among Republicans is thus self-reinforcing. It keeps strong challengers out of the primary, making his hold on the nomination even firmer.

What we are talking about, then, is a protest candidacy — a way for anti-Trump Republicans to register their opposition to the president and their support for the values that underlie that opposition. The

campaign's backers would of course want their candidate to become president if (several bolts of) lightning should strike. But a merely respectable showing would demonstrate the continuing relevance of a non-Trumpist conservatism and could help to set the direction of the party after Trump — especially if he either loses in November 2020 or has a second term that Republicans come to see as a failure.

The Republicans and conservatives who oppose Trump do so chiefly on grounds of character. Many of them disagree with particular policies of his, too, especially on trade and immigration. But the criticism that unites them is characterological. Many of them supported Mitt Romney, for example, even though he threatened tariffs on China and promised “self-deportation” for illegal immigrants.

The critics object to Trump's impulsiveness, his conspiracy theorizing, his dishonesty, his bigoted remarks, his poor judgment in associates and so on. It follows that a plausible candidate against Trump — plausible, again, in the sense of offering a reasonable way to lodge a protest, not in the sense of having a high probability of winning — would have to be someone who can make a credible case against Trump's character. The candidate would not have to be a saint, but would have to pass minimal tests such as not having spread bigoted conspiracy theories himself.

Walsh by his own admission cannot pass that test. He repeatedly and falsely claimed that President Barack Obama was a Muslim and treated it as a mark against him. He has repudiated those remarks, which is laudable. It would also be laudable if he confined himself to a supporting role in any campaign against Trump.

Sanford is a closer case. His infidelity to his former wife should not by itself be

disqualifying. I think, especially against Trump. It does, however, undermine his ability to critique Trump. Perhaps more important, he seems inclined to run a campaign based on entitlement reform: a good and important cause, but not the top issue for most Trump opponents or any other large number of Americans.

That's not to deny that an anti-Trump candidate would have to outline positions on policy issues. That imperative raises another problem: Conservative opponents of Trump are more unified in detesting his character than they are on issues. It appears that most of the Republicans who are disaffected in the Trump era are socially moderate — but not all of them are.

I suspect that the protest candidate with the broadest possible support would be socially conservative. We know that Republicans, and people who used to consider themselves Republicans before Trump, are generally more inclined to vote for candidates who oppose abortion and gun control even if they themselves do not. They voted for George W. Bush and Romney, after all. Right-leaning voters on the other side of those issues are much less inclined to overlook them when casting their votes. To put it another way: I'm pretty critical of Trump, but if he were Avelard were the only candidates on the primary ballot, I'd probably write in a third name.

The criteria for a promising protest candidate are thus not especially stringent. He or she needs to be a conservative, without a large asterisk, with a record of sanity and decency. Surely in this great and large nation, anti-Trump Republicans can find someone who meets them.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Ramesh Ponnuru is a senior editor at National Review, visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and contributor to CBS News.

US seeking Afghan deal because it has little leverage

By GIL BARNDOLLAR
Special to the Los Angeles Times

After almost 18 years of war, the United States may finally be on the verge of withdrawing from Afghanistan.

Opponents of an Afghanisthan withdrawal or even drawdown justifiably point to the clear limits of the proposed deal U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has negotiated with the Taliban. The Afghan government has been sidelined, a cease-fire would prove transitory and the Taliban could emerge on any pledge to renounce al-Qaida.

Yet there is also a clear reason for such an unsatisfactory agreement. Despite nearly two decades of fighting — and overwhelming superiority in manpower, firepower and money — the U.S. has remarkably little leverage on Afghanistan.

The security situation is the worst it has been since the U.S. invasion in 2001. Though the U.S. stopped releasing district stability data this year, independent analysts conclude that the Taliban control or contest the majority of Afghanistan's districts. Civilian casualties in 2018 were twice what they were during even the worst years of Afghanistan's brutal 1990s civil war. Most importantly, the Afghan National Security Forces are taking unsustainable casualties and attrition, as both Afghan and U.S. military leaders concede. Many of the United States' military advisers in Afghanistan must be replaced every year.

All of this comes despite another grim metric: The U.S. dropped more bombs in Afghanistan in 2018 than in any previous year.

The Trump administration's “mini-strike,” “faired” and “clearly reluctant” president by his military advisers, has failed.

All major security indicators have stalled or moved in the wrong direction. Even the instruments of this escalation, the Army's vaunted Security Force Assistance Brigades, are struggling, with noncombat attrition rates as high as those of their Afghan partners.

American leverage is also affected by both its looming presidential election and President Donald Trump's clear enthusiasm for withdrawal, but these are both secondary factors. The major reason the United States finds itself picking between a bad deal with the Taliban and no deal at all is the foolish, throwback of the U.S. foreign policy and military establishment. Despite ample evidence that nation-building in Afghanistan was a fool's errand, devoted followers of respectable foreign policy opinion obstinately insist that the U.S. persists with a failed Afghan strategy regardless of the country's cultural, geographic, political and military realities. The U.S. has spent more on Afghan reconstruction than it did on the entire Marshall Plan in Europe — but has precious little to show for it.

For most of the last two decades, the United States has thrown good money after bad in Afghanistan. That includes expanding NATO's mission in Afghanistan in 2006, surging troops and promising “government in a box” under Gen. Stanley McChrystal and former President Barack Obama and dropping the so-called Mother of All Bombs under Trump. With the U.S. now reduced to merely fighting not to lose, the limits of American power and expertise are plain for all to see. Victory is always said to be just around the corner — and still could be, according to some in Washington who refuse to face reality.

Had the United States negotiated with the Taliban in 2003, 2009 or 2017, it could

hardly have gotten a worse deal than it stands to achieve today. But there were always talking heads, purported experts and armchair strategists eager for escalation, not to mention generals who wanted to prove their mettle. Yet with nearly 2,500 American troops killed and more than \$1 trillion squandered in an attempt to fix one of the most backward countries on earth, America is further than ever from building a peaceful democracy in Kabul.

Both voters and veterans realize that. Nearly 60% of both groups say the Afghan war was not worth fighting, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey. The United States has little leverage as the country enters what may be the stretch run of negotiations to end its military role in Afghanistan. The U.S. refusal to negotiate and accept more realistic goals, even at moments of temporary battlefield advantage, has left Khalilzad with a weak hand, despite all the blood and treasure expended.

There's a saying in American infantry battalions, usually directed by furious sergeants at slow-moving privates: “Play stupid games, win stupid prizes.” A nearly 18-year military campaign in Afghanistan has been a very stupid game, and leaving with a fig leaf agreement is the fittingly stupid prize. Should U.S. troops stay longer, whatever the justification, our negotiating position will not be improved. A bad deal or the study of options America's bipartisan foreign policy establishment has left us with in Afghanistan.

Gil Barndollar is a senior fellow at Defense Priorities and the military fellow-in-residence at the Catholic University of America's Center for the Study of the United States and the World. He served as an infantry officer in the Marines and deployed to Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the Persian Gulf.

BUSINESS/WEATHER



CHINATOPIC/AP

An employee works on the production line of a smart electricity meter manufacturing plant in Nantong in eastern China's Jiangsu province. Surveys show manufacturing demand is weak in China amid a trade war with the U.S.

Surveys: China's manufacturing demand weak amid trade war

Associated Press

BEIJING — Two surveys of Chinese manufacturing show demand is weak amid a mounting tariff war with Washington over trade and technology.

A monthly purchasing managers' index released by a business magazine, Caixin, rose to 50.4 from July's 49.9 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity increasing.

That indicates "renewed improvement" but said a gauge of

new orders fell to its lowest level this year, the magazine said.

A separate survey released Saturday by an industry group, the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing, showed activity declining to 49.5 from July's 49.7. It said market demand was "relatively weak."

Chinese exporters are struggling in the face of U.S. tariff increases. Exports to the United States, their biggest market, fell 6.5% in July.

Washington and Beijing stepped up their fight Sunday by imposing additional tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

Beijing has propped up economic growth by boosting government spending on construction.

Economic growth sank to 6.2% over a year earlier in the quarter ending in June, its lowest level in at least 26 years.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 4)	\$1.1225
Dollar buys (Sept. 4)	€0.8909
British pound (Sept. 4)	\$1.23
Japanese yen (Sept. 4)	¥104.00
South Korean won (Sept. 4)	₩1,184.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.2032
Canada (Dollar)	1.3356
China (Yuan)	7.1813
Denmark (Krone)	6.8055
Egypt (Pound)	£6.5599
Euro	\$1.0958/9126
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8438
Hungary (Forint)	301.89
Israel (Shekel)	3.5447
Japan (Yen)	106.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3042
Norway (Krone)	8.1322
Philippines (Peso)	52.27
Poland (Zloty)	3.96
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7464
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3926
South Korea (Won)	1,215.08
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9886
Thailand (Baht)	30.65
Turkey (New Lira)	5.7451

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-local currency exchange rates, purchasing British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.94
3-month bill	1.94
30-year bond	1.97

Dubai curbs pace of construction projects as prices fall

By AYA BATRAWY

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Dubai's ruler issued a directive Monday that would curb the pace of new real estate construction projects as property prices fall and the sheer scale of developments threatens to outstrip demand.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum ordered the creation of a committee to study the needs of the real estate market, evaluate all future projects and control the pace of projects, a statement by Dubai's Media Office said.

The move comes amid a slowdown in Dubai's economy and a slump in real estate prices.

Dubai's real estate sector is a bellwether for its economy. It not only caters to the emirate's residents, but also attracts wealthy investors from around the world seeking a safe place to put their money.

Property values, however, have



KAMRAN JEBREIL/AP

Billboards advertise luxury villas and apartments in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in June 2018. Dubai will restrict the rate of new real estate construction projects amid falling property prices.

been steadily dipping. A report by UAE-based Property Finder found that Dubai apartment and villa sale prices for the first half of 2019 were down around 12% compared with two years ago.

Developers, however, continue to build at breakneck speed and

have completed around 21,000 residential units in the first half of the year, according to Property Finder. More than 38,400 additional residential units are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

Dubai's major developers,

like Meraas, Emaar, Damac and Nakheel, have plans for new cities, neighborhoods, malls, skyscrapers and fantastical concepts like floating homes with floor-to-ceiling glass rooms submerged in the waters off the emirate's coast.

Developers are churning out a pipeline of projects in the lead-up to next year's World Expo in Dubai despite concerns that an oversupply is weighing down real estate prices.

The newly formed real estate oversight body will be chaired by Sheikh Mohammed and will ensure new projects are innovative and add value to Dubai's economy.

It "will assess the state of the real estate sector, study the needs of the market, evaluate all future real estate projects, develop an integrated plan for the real estate sector to regulate and control the pace of projects, and achieve a balance between supply and demand," the statement said.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

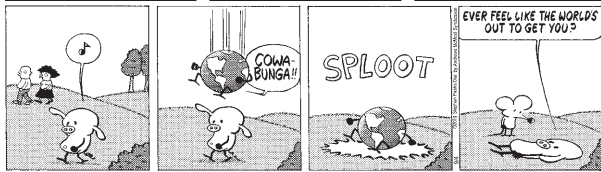
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



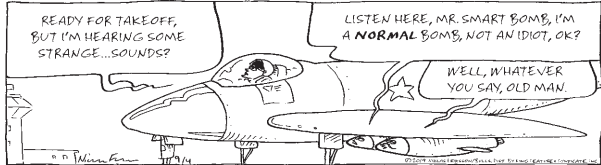
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
			21					22				
23	24	25		26		27		28		29	30	
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
			41			42		43		44		
45	46					47				48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

ACROSS

- 1 Tranquil
- 5 Joan of —
- 8 Black, in verse
- 12 Vicinity
- 13 Sheepish remark
- 14 Boy, in Barcelona
- 15 NASCAR repair breaks
- 17 Numbered rds.
- 18 Soft hue
- 19 Pass by
- 21 Six, in Sicily
- 22 Meditative practice
- 23 "Humbly!"
- 26 Flavor enhancer, for short
- 28 Rife with bacteria
- 31 Skip
- 33 Weed whacker
- 35 Swizzle
- 36 Sum
- 38 Capote nickname
- 40 Serena, to Venus
- 41 Sty chow
- 43 German conjunction
- 45 Coffee-flavored liqueur
- 47 Buccaneer
- 51 Reed instrument
- 52 "Don't move!"
- 54 Reporter's quest
- 55 Water tester

DOWN

- 1 Dogpatch creator
- 2 La Scala solo
- 3 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 4 Spars
- 5 Do away with
- 6 Knock
- 7 Mudville slugger
- 8 Angers
- 9 Small movie roles
- 10 Singles
- 11 Plane part
- 16 Abound
- 20 Yule fuel
- 23 Automaton, for short
- 24 Latin 101 word
- 25 Broadway's "Hamilton," and the like
- 27 Inherited
- 29 Roman 1002
- 30 Decade parts (Abbr.)
- 32 Everest adjective
- 34 Blew one's top
- 37 Singer Rawls
- 39 Squad
- 42 Trattoria offering
- 44 Snow formation
- 45 Hawaiian coast
- 46 Fortas and Lincoln
- 48 Taj Mahal city
- 49 "— she blows!"
- 50 Jazzy James
- 53 Charged bit

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	L	U	B	K	I	T	H	O	L	Y
A	E	R	O	N	N	E	A	R	E	A
D	E	N	D	R	I	T	E	N	E	A
S	R	S	U	F	O	A	D	O	R	N
				O	D	E		B	M	W
S	A	V	V	Y	D	I	O	R	A	M
O	P	T	E		J	O	B	I	B	I
B	E	A	R	H	U	G	S	T	U	C
				W	I	G	A	L	E	
C	H	A	R	T	P	S	A	K	E	N
H	O	P	I		C	O	N	T	R	I
E	D	I	T		O	R	E	Y	E	T
Z	A	N	E		P	E	R	E	V	E

9-4

CRYPTOQUIP

PWAZGQH PTAAL WELQLEAP
 LXQL, TXAB ZEBPKCAV, ZQKPA
 SEHMP LE PWAQM CEFA
 SFQBMHJ: ZQBGVJ JQCP.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE PETITION WAS PRESENTED WITH THE STRONGEST PROTESTORS AT THE TOP. IT'S IN DISSENTING ORDER.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S


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- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
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Classifieds EUROPE

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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy right unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

No. 9 Notre Dame pulls away from Louisville

By GARY B. GRAVES

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Briefly caught off guard by Louisville's intensity, Notre Dame turned up its energy as well to take control with big plays.

Ian Book ran for one touchdown and threw for another, Jahmir Smith rushed for two scores and the No. 9 Fighting Irish beat Louisville 35-17 on Monday night.

Tony Jones Jr. rushed 15 times for 110 yards, including an 11-yard TD, as the Fighting Irish worked harder than expected to put away the rebuilding Cardinals in Scott Satterfield's debut as coach.

Figuring it out in time pleased Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly.

"There's a litany of things we can get better at," he said. "We still won the game, and we have some good things to take away."

Starting well was important to the Irish in their first game since a 30-3 loss to Clemson last December in the College Football Playoff semifinal. Besides wanting to put that defeat behind them and mounting another national championship run, Kelly was interested to see how his team replaced key players, especially on defense.

Their answer to Louisville's challenge might have been the most impressive part. Notre Dame trailed 14-7 in the first before Jones' score tied it, and Book followed with an 11-yard score just before halftime.

Book's TD came after a bizarre sequence featuring three consecutive fumbles between the teams, the last of which Notre Dame recovered at Louisville's 20.

The Irish forced five fumbles overall and recovered three.

"We just had to focus on some smaller details," said Book, who rushed for 81 yards on 14 carries. "They were there. Just had to execute what was called. We trust the coaches to put in the right decision and we just had to execute it. All 11 guys."

Book hit Tommy Tremble with a 26-yard TD pass midway through the third for a 28-14 lead. He finished 14-for-23 passing for 193 yards. Smith rushed for touchdowns of 3 and 1 yards and totaled 24 on eight carries.

Louisville junior quarterback Javon Pass rushed for touchdowns of 8 and 17 yards in the first quarter, but the Cardinals struggled after that and managed only Blanton Creque's 46-yard field goal midway through the fourth quarter.

The Cardinals were outgained 425-383.

Satterfield nonetheless found bright spots in the Cardinals' performance against Notre Dame, a storied program coming off a quest for a national championship.

"I was extremely proud of the way our guys played," he said. "The fight, the energy they had was awesome to see. The one thing coming into this game that we didn't know about was when they faced adversity, how were they going to react to it. And they did a great job."

The takeaway

Notre Dame: The defense initially looked shaky before adjusting to keep Louisville out of the end zone after the first quarter.



TIMOTHY D. EASLE/AP

Notre Dame wide receiver Chase Claypool, left, runs from the pursuit of Louisville defensive back Russ Yeast during the second half Monday in Louisville, Ky. The ninth-ranked Irish won their opener 35-17.

Four sacks highlighted that performance, along with the fumble recoveries that stopped drives and momentum. Book's feet helped set the offensive tone as the Irish rushed for 232 yards. He then threw the key touchdown for a cushion they never lost.

Louisville: The Scott Satterfield Era got

off to an exciting start as the Cardinals showed more energy and execution on both sides of the ball than during a 2-10 season in grabbing an early lead. They have more work ahead after failing to sustain the effort, struggling to move the ball and coughing it up five times. They did outrush the Irish by 19 yards, though.

STARS AND STRIPES.
NFL CHALLENGE

Week 01
DEADLINE

8:00pm EST
Thursday, September 5.

Log in every week during the 2019 NFL Season and make your picks for the winners of the upcoming NFL games. Earn points for every winning team you pick and at the end of the season, you may find yourself the winner.*

Free to register and play.

Visit nfl.strikes.com to enter and win!

*Rules and restrictions apply. See official rules of play on nfl.strikes.com. There is no cost to participate, but you must register to play.



MLB

Mets end Nats' winning streak

New York's Syndergaard fans 10

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Noah Syndergaard had far too much time to dwell on allowing 10 runs in his last start. One thought, in particular, continued to surface.

"I wanted to make sure that never happened again," the New York Mets right-hander said.

There was never a hint it would Monday as Syndergaard pitched seven shutout innings and struck out 10 while the Mets handled the Washington Nationals 7-3.

Jeff McNeil hit a two-run homer for New York, which played a holiday afternoon game about 15 hours after falling at Philadelphia on Sunday night. The Mets remained four games behind the Chicago Cubs for the NL's second wild-card spot.

The loss ended Washington's four-game winning streak and denied the Nationals from moving 20 games over .500 for the first time this season. Syndergaard

was easily the biggest reason, allowing three hits without a walk in his first start since yielding that career-high 10 runs against the Cubs on Wednesday.

"He was real good. I mean real good," Washington manager Dave Martinez said. "He got us to chase the ball up. Threw a lot more breaking balls than I've seen (him) throw before."

Syndergaard (10-7) allowed a leadoff single to Trea Turner, then retired the next 16 batters. It was Syndergaard's third 10-strikeout performance of the season and the 17th of his career.

Syndergaard needed only 90 pitches to make it through the seventh. It was the sixth time in seven starts he pitched at least six innings and allowed two runs or less.

"Today was vintage Noah," Mets outfielder Brandon Nimmo said. "This is what he's extremely capable of on an everyday-he-goes-out-there basis. He was hit-



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

New York Mets starting pitcher Noah Syndergaard threw seven shutout innings Monday afternoon.

ting his spots, and with the stuff he has when he's hitting his spots, good luck up there."

McNeil was mired in a career-worst 0-for-15 slump before sending Joe Ross's two-out sinker into the seats in right-center field in the fourth inning.

That ignited a five-run rally

which included J.D. Davis' two-run double to chase Ross (3-4) and Nimmo's RBI double to greet reliever Austin Voth that made it 7-0.

New York took a 2-0 lead in the second on Joe Panik's RBI double and Rene Rivera's run-scoring single.

Ross allowed seven runs in 3½ innings. He surrendered three runs in 25½ innings in five starts in August.

Washington avoided the shutout when former Met Asdrubal Cabrera hit a two-out, three-run homer in the ninth off reliever Tyler Bashlor.

Roundup

Minor, Rangers deal Yanks first shutout in 221 games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Minor and two relievers came to the first pitchers in 221 tries to shut out the Yankees, helping the Texas Rangers beat New York 7-0 Monday.

The Yankees had the second-longest streak without being blanked since at least 1900 behind a 308-game stretch by the Babe Ruth-led Yankees from 1931-33. New York was previously shut out June 30, 2018, by Chris Sale and the Red Sox.

Jose Trevino, Delino DeShields and Shin-Soo Choo homered to back Minor (12-8), who allowed five hits over 7½ innings. The left-hander struck out five, walked one and threw 111 pitches before being pulled with two on in the eighth.

Shawn Kelley replaced Minor and retired DJ LeMahieu and Aaron Judge and ended the eighth. Emmanuel Clase shut down the heart of the order in the ninth to stop New York's string of 220 straight games with a run.

Yankees right-hander Masahiro Tanaka (10-8) grinded through six innings of two-run ball. He allowed seven hits, walked two and struck out five.

The Yankees' scoring streak nearly fell Sunday when they trailed Oakland 4-0 after 7½ innings, but New York rallied and won 5-4 on Mike Ford's game-



ADAM HUNTER/AP

Texas Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus, left, and second baseman Rougned Odor settle under a pop fly by the Yankees' Clint Frazier during the fifth inning of Monday's game in New York.

ending solo homer in the ninth.

Astros 3, Brewers 2 (10): George Springer's home run in the 10th inning, which followed a game-tying homer by Christian Yelich in the ninth, lifted visiting Houston over Milwaukee.

The long balls overshadowed a 14-strikeout performance by Astros starter Gerrit Cole.

With Houston leading 2-1, Yelich led off the ninth with his 43rd home run of the season, a solo shot on an 0-2 pitch from reliever Roberto Osuna (4-3).

Rays 5, Orioles 4: Tommy

Pham hit an RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning and host Tampa Bay won its fifth straight game.

The Rays held their narrow lead atop the AL wild-card race. Pham's third hit of the game came off Dillon Tate (0-1) after Joey Wendle walked with one out and moved up on a grounder. He also had a two-run double.

Twins 4, Tigers 3: Max Kepler's two-out, two-run single in the eighth inning lifted AL Central-leading Minnesota over host Detroit.

Trailing 3-2, the Twins started the eighth with two singles off Buck Farmer (5-6). He retired the next two batters, but Ehre Adrianza's infield single loaded the bases for Kepler. Matt Hall relieved and Kepler lined his single to center field.

Braves 6, Blue Jays 3: Josh Donaldson and Johan Camargo hit two-run homers and Mike Soroka (11-3) snapped a streak of eight starts without a win in host Atlanta's victory over Toronto.

The NL East-leading Braves have won five straight, all against American League teams. The Braves also have won nine straight home games.

Phillies 7, Reds 1: Rhys Hoskins drove in three runs with two homers and Bryce Harper and Scott Kingery added two-run shots as visiting Philadelphia overpowered Cincinnati.

Harper extended his hitting and scoring streaks to 10 games. Philadelphia starter Drew Smyly (3-6) tied his season high with eight strikeouts while earning his first win in six starts. He gave up four hits, one run and three walks in 5½ innings.

Cardinals 3, Giants 1: Adam Wainwright tossed seven scoreless innings and Kolten Wong delivered a run-scoring triple to lead host St. Louis over San Francisco.

Paul DeJong had an RBI single for the Cardinals, who have won

10 of 12. They stretched their lead over the Chicago Cubs in the NL Central 3½ games.

Cubs 5, Mariners 1: Kyle Schwarber had a three-run triple to highlight a five-run seventh, and host Chicago snapped a 24-inning scoreless streak, rallying to beat Seattle.

Anthony Rizzo went 2-for-2 and drove in a run for Chicago.

Matt Wisler (3-3) took the loss.

Diamondbacks 14, Padres 7: Josh Rojas, Eduardo Escobar and Christian Walker homered in the sixth inning off converted infielder Javy Guerra and host Arizona beat San Diego.

The Diamondbacks have won seven of eight. The Padres had won three of four.

Indians 11, White Sox 3: Carlos Santana homered, Frammil Reyes had a three-run double and host Cleveland defeated Chicago.

Santana hit his team-leading 32nd home run with one out in the sixth and had an RBI single in the seventh.

Dodgers 16, Rockies 9: Joc Pederson homered twice and drove in five runs before running into the right-field wall on a spectacular catch in the fifth inning, Gavin Lux scored three runs in his major-league debut, and host Los Angeles routed Colorado.

The Dodgers slugged seven homers. They pounded out 17 hits, two off their season high.

NEW SCOREBOARD

American League									
	East Division			West Division			National League		
	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	W	L	Pct
New York	49	647			85	54	71	65	522
Tampa Bay	51	583			77	59	71	65	522
Boston	74	540			74	64	71	65	522
Toronto	58	54	396	35	74	64	71	65	522
Baltimore	51	59	352	35	74	64	71	65	522
Central Division									
Minnesota	62	520			74	64	71	65	522
Cleveland	50	548	58	5%	74	64	71	65	522
Chicago	49	59	359	36%	74	64	71	65	522
Kansas City	49	59	359	36%	74	64	71	65	522
Detroit	40	95	296	44	74	64	71	65	522
West Division									
Houston	90	49	647		74	64	71	65	522
Oakland	58	54	396	10%	74	64	71	65	522
Texas	68	71	489	22	74	64	71	65	522
Los Angeles	65	73	471	24%	74	64	71	65	522
Seattle	58	81	417	32	74	64	71	65	522
National League									
	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	85	54	612		74	64	71	65	522
Washington	77	59	568	6%	74	64	71	65	522
Philadelphia	71	65	522	12%	74	64	71	65	522
Milwaukee	71	65	522	12%	74	64	71	65	522
Miami	48	88	335	35%	74	64	71	65	522
Central Division									
St. Louis	79	56	582		74	64	71	65	522
Chicago	74	64	540	3	74	64	71	65	522
Milwaukee	71	65	522	12%	74	64	71	65	522
Cincinnati	64	74	454	13%	74	64	71	65	522
Pittsburgh	48	88	335	35%	74	64	71	65	522
West Division									
Los Angeles	90	50	643		74	64	71	65	522
Arizona	71	65	522	12%	74	64	71	65	522
San Francisco	66	71	482	22%	74	64	71	65	522
Colorado	59	80	424	30%	74	64	71	65	522
Wild-card race									
	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	W	L	Pct
Tampa Bay	74	64	540		74	64	71	65	522
Cleveland	74	64	540		74	64	71	65	522
Oakland	78	58	574	1%	74	64	71	65	522
Boston	74	64	540	5%	74	64	71	65	522
NATIONAL LEAGUE									
	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	W	L	Pct
Washington	74	64	540		74	64	71	65	522
Chicago	74	64	540		74	64	71	65	522
Philadelphia	71	65	522	2%	74	64	71	65	522
Arizona	71	65	522	2%	74	64	71	65	522
Milwaukee	71	65	522	2%	74	64	71	65	522
New York	70	67	511	4	74	64	71	65	522
Sunday's games									
Houston 2, Toronto									
Tampa Bay 4, Cleveland 2									
Atlanta 6, Detroit 3									
N.Y. Yankees 5, Oakland 4									
Los Angeles 2, St. Louis 1									
Seattle 11, Texas 3									
San Diego 3, L.A. Angels 2									
Chicago Cubs 6, St. Louis 3									
St. Louis 4, Cincinnati 3, 1st game									
Washington 9, Miami 3									
Minnesota 4, St. Louis 2, 2nd game									
Pittsburgh 6, Colorado 2									
San Diego 8, San Francisco 4									
Los Angeles 4, Arizona 3, 1st innings									
Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Mets 2									
Monday's games									
Texas 7, N.Y. Yankees 0									
Los Angeles 4, Arizona 3									
Minnesota 4, Detroit 3									
Tampa Bay 5, Baltimore 4, 10 innings									
Los Angeles 3, Milwaukee 2, 10 innings									
Cleveland 11, Chicago 9									
N.Y. Mets 7, Washington 3									
Philadelphia 7, Cincinnati 1									
Los Angeles 3, San Francisco 1									
Arizona 14, San Diego 7									
L.A. Dodgers 16, Colorado 9									
Tuesday's games									
Baltimore 2, Tampa Bay 1									
Texas at N.Y. Yankees									
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland									
Toronto at Atlanta									
Los Angeles at Milwaukee									
Seattle at Chicago Cubs									
Los Angeles at Kansas City									
L.A. Angels at Oakland									
Philadelphia at Cincinnati									
Atlanta at Pittsburgh									
N.Y. Mets at Washington									
San Francisco at St. Louis									
San Diego at Arizona									
Wednesday's games									
Los Angeles at L.A. Dodgers									
Los Angeles at St. Louis									
Texas (Lynn 14-9) at N.Y. Yankees									
Chicago White Sox (Nova 9-11) at Minnesota (Berrios 11-7) at Boston (Rodriguez 16-5)									
Los Angeles (Jackson 3-8) at Kansas City (Junis 8-12)									
Los Angeles (Sandoval 0-1) at Oakland (Roark 8-6)									
Los Angeles (Wheeler 9-7) at Washington (Sanchez 8-6)									
Philadelphia (Nola 12-4) at Cincinnati (Pedroia 12-4)									
Miami (Dugger 0-1) at Pittsburgh (Willie 11-6)									
San Francisco (Bumgarner 9-8) at Los Angeles (Hudson 14-4)									
Los Angeles (Peacock 8-7) at Arizona (Gallen 2-4)									
Colorado (Santana 8-9) at L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 12-5)									
Thursday's games									
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland									
Detroit at Kansas City									
L.A. Angels at Oakland									
Texas at Baltimore									
Los Angeles at Boston									
Toronto at Tampa Bay									
Houston at Washington									
Philadelphia at Cincinnati									
San Francisco at St. Louis									
Atlanta at Pittsburgh									
Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee									
Washington at Atlanta									

Monday									
Dodgers 16, Rockies 9					Los Angeles				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Colorado	4	8	33	1%	Colorado	4	8	33	1%
St. Louis	4	8	33	1%	St. Louis	4	8	33	1%
San Francisco	4	8	33	1%	San Francisco	4	8	33	1%
Arizona	4	8	33	1%	Arizona	4	8	33	1%
Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%	Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%
San Diego	4	8	33	1%	San Diego	4	8	33	1%
Colorado	4	8	33	1%	Colorado	4	8	33	1%
St. Louis	4	8	33	1%	St. Louis	4	8	33	1%
San Francisco	4	8	33	1%	San Francisco	4	8	33	1%
Arizona	4	8	33	1%	Arizona	4	8	33	1%
Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%	Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%
San Diego	4	8	33	1%	San Diego	4	8	33	1%
Colorado	4	8	33	1%	Colorado	4	8	33	1%
St. Louis	4	8	33	1%	St. Louis	4	8	33	1%
San Francisco	4	8	33	1%	San Francisco	4	8	33	1%
Arizona	4	8	33	1%	Arizona	4	8	33	1%
Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%	Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%
San Diego	4	8	33	1%	San Diego	4	8	33	1%
Colorado	4	8	33	1%	Colorado	4	8	33	1%
St. Louis	4	8	33	1%	St. Louis	4	8	33	1%
San Francisco	4	8	33	1%	San Francisco	4	8	33	1%
Arizona	4	8	33	1%	Arizona	4	8	33	1%
Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%	Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%
San Diego	4	8	33	1%	San Diego	4	8	33	1%
Colorado	4	8	33	1%	Colorado	4	8	33	1%
St. Louis	4	8	33	1%	St. Louis	4	8	33	1%
San Francisco	4	8	33	1%	San Francisco	4	8	33	1%
Arizona	4	8	33	1%	Arizona	4	8	33	1%
Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%	Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%
San Diego	4	8	33	1%	San Diego	4	8	33	1%
Colorado	4	8	33	1%	Colorado	4	8	33	1%
St. Louis	4	8	33	1%	St. Louis	4	8	33	1%
San Francisco	4	8	33	1%	San Francisco	4	8	33	1%
Arizona	4	8	33	1%	Arizona	4	8	33	1%
Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%	Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%
San Diego	4	8	33	1%	San Diego	4	8	33	1%
Colorado	4	8	33	1%	Colorado	4	8	33	1%
St. Louis	4	8	33	1%	St. Louis	4	8	33	1%
San Francisco	4	8	33	1%	San Francisco	4	8	33	1%
Arizona	4	8	33	1%	Arizona	4	8	33	1%
Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%	Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%
San Diego	4	8	33	1%	San Diego	4	8	33	1%
Colorado	4	8	33	1%	Colorado	4	8	33	1%
St. Louis	4	8	33	1%	St. Louis	4	8	33	1%
San Francisco	4	8	33	1%	San Francisco	4	8	33	1%
Arizona	4	8	33	1%	Arizona	4	8	33	1%
Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%	Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%
San Diego	4	8	33	1%	San Diego	4	8	33	1%
Colorado	4	8	33	1%	Colorado	4	8	33	1%
St. Louis	4	8	33	1%	St. Louis	4	8	33	1%
San Francisco	4	8	33	1%	San Francisco	4	8	33	1%
Arizona	4	8	33	1%	Arizona	4	8	33	1%
Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%	Los Angeles	4	8	33	1%
San Diego	4	8	33	1%	San Diego	4	8	33	1%

US OPEN/BASKETBALL

'18 champ Osaka loses to Bencic; Nadal on to QFs

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Naomi Osaka's achy left knee didn't let her serve without pain, so she didn't practice that key part of her game leading into the U.S. Open. The knee also prevented her from covering the court and preparing for shots the way she'd like.

Those weren't the only reasons that the No. 1-seeded Osaka's 10-match winning streak at the U.S. Open and title defense ended Monday in the fourth round. Belinda Bencic's clean, crisp strokes, struck with the ball still on the rise, contributed plenty to the outcome, too.

Osaka joined 2018 men's champion Novak Djokovic on the sideline before the quarterfinals, exiting with a 7-5, 6-4 loss to the 13th-seeded Bencic under a closed roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium on a rainy afternoon. Djokovic stopped playing in his fourth-round Sunday night because of a problematic left shoulder.

"I honestly didn't move well today. You know what I mean? I felt like I was always flat-footed.... The knee was a little bit and then the movement aspect," Osaka said. "But I think that that's something I should have overcome."

As for her powerful serve, Osaka called it "inconsistent," saying she hadn't been working on it coming into the year's last Grand Slam tournament "because I can't really land on my leg that great."

Osaka has been wearing a black sleeve on the knee and was given a pain-killing pill by a trainer midway through the second set Monday.

By then, Bencic was up a set and a break, employing a quick-strike style of taking balls early and snapping them back, rushing Osaka and not leaving her enough time to respond. It worked before: Bencic is now 3-0 against Osaka in 2019.

"I don't have the biggest power. Don't have the most winners or most aces. But I think I can really read the opponent's game well," said Bencic, who will face No. 23 Donna Vekic of Croatia in the quarterfinals. "I definitely try to do that against anyone, not only against her."

Bencic finished with far more winners, 29, than unforced errors, 12, and showed once again that she is a big-match player. She owns a top-leading nine victories over top-10 opponents in 2019 and is 4-1 for her career against top-ranked players.

Bencic is 22, just a year older than Osaka, but her progress was slowed in recent years by inju-



Naomi Osaka waves to the crowd after losing in the fourth round of the U.S. Open.

ries, including wrist surgery. Back in 2014, when she was 17, Bencic became the youngest woman into the U.S. Open quarterfinals since 1997, when another Swiss woman, Martina Hingis, took the title.

Hingis' mother, Melanie Molitor, used to coach Bencic and five-time major champion Hingis herself has served as a mentor. Bencic said she likes to emulate the way Hingis used to play, always thinking a move or two — or more — ahead.

"With Melanie, we didn't try to copy Martina's game. We tried to make my own game. And obviously, I know there are similarities, because that's the way Melanie teaches, but it was about giving my own strengths and my own game style," Bencic said. "I play, of course, a little bit different than Martina. I think she was even more skilled and smarter on the court and playing more chess. I think I have a little bit less maybe talent and touch than her, but maybe a little bit more power."

In men's action, No. 2 Rafael Nadal's bid for a fourth U.S. Open trophy and 19th Slam title in all progressed via a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory over 2014 champion Marin Cilic at night in front of an appreciative Ashe crowd that included Tiger Woods throwing uppercuts to celebrate spectacular shots. Nadal's quarterfinal foe will be No. 10 Diego Schwartzman, a 3-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 winner against No. 6 Alexander Zverev, who was undone by 17 double-faults.

"My first serve is still fine. My second serve needs to be worked on," Zverev said. "But I'll deal with it."

No. 24 Matteo Berrettini gave Italy its first U.S. Open men's quarterfinalist since 1977 and made it this far himself for the



PHOTOS BY FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Belinda Bencic reacts after defeating defending champion Naomi Osaka, 7-5, 6-4 in the fourth round of the U.S. Open on Monday.

first time at any major with a 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (6) victory over Andrey Rublev. Berrettini now plays No. 13 Gael Monfils, who overwhelmed Pablo Andujar 6-1, 6-1, 6-2.

Osaka made her breakthrough at Flushing Meadows a year ago, winning her first major championship by beating Serena Williams in a chaotic final that devolved after Williams got into an extended argument with the chair umpire.

Osaka followed that up with a second consecutive Grand Slam trophy at the Australian Open in January. That allowed her to become the first tennis player representing Japan to reach No. 1 in the rankings.

This loss means that Osaka will cede that top spot to No. 2 Ash Barty, who lost her fourth-round match Sunday.

"Right now, I have this feeling of sadness," said Osaka, who lost in the third round at the

French Open and first round at Wimbledon, "but I also feel like I have learned so much during this tournament. Honestly, of course, I wanted to defend this tournament."

Another women's quarterfinal will pit No. 25 Elise Mertens of Belgium against No. 15 Bianca Andreescu, a 19-year-old from Canada.

Andreescu got to her first major quarterfinal in just four appearances, defeating American qualifier Taylor Townsend 6-1, 4-6, 6-2 in an entertaining contest of styles that ended after midnight.

Mertens advanced by beating wild-card entry Kristine Ahn of the U.S. 6-1, 6-1. Ahn carried heavy tape jobs on her right arm and left leg.

Vekic, a 23-year-old from Croatia, reached her first Grand Slam quarterfinal by saving a match point and edging No. 26 Julia Georges of Germany 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-3.

Scoreboard

Monday

**USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center
New York**
Men's Singles
Fourth Round

Matteo Berrettini (24), Italy, def. Andrey Rublev, Russia, 6-1, 7-5 (6).

Diego Schwartzman (20), Argentina, def. Alexander Zverev (6), Germany, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

Rafael Nadal (13), France, def. Pablo Andujar, Spain, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

Belinda Bencic (13), Switzerland, def. Naomi Osaka (1), Japan, 7-5, 6-4.

Donna Vekic (23), Croatia, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-3, 6-3.

Elise Mertens (25), Belgium, def. Kristine Ahn, United States, 6-1, 6-1.

Men's Doubles
Third Round

Jurgen Melzer and Oliver Marach (16), Austria, def. Casper Ruud, Norway, and Mircea Neculanovic, Serbia, 6-0, 6-3.

Jack Sock and Jack Whitrow, United States, def. Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan (7), United States, 6-4, 7-5.

Robert Farah and Juan Sebastian Cabal (1), Colombia, def. Robin Haase and Wes-

ley Koolhof (13), Netherlands, 6-4, 6-4.

Women's Doubles

Third Round
Zheng Saisai and Xuan-Ying Ying (12), China, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, and Anastasia Sevastova, Latvia, 6-3, 6-3.

Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, and Ashleigh Barty (8), Australia, def. Caty McNally and Cori Gauff, United States, 6-0, 6-1.

Ludmyla Kichenok, Ukraine, and Jelena Ostapenko (14), Latvia, def. Barbara Strycova, Czech Republic, and Hsieh Su-wei (2), Taiwan, 6-4, 6-3.

Men's Doubles

Third Round
Rajeev Ram, United States, and Sam Stosur (3), Australia, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, and Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, 7-6 (2), 7-5.

Women's Doubles
Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, and Jamie Murray, Britain, def. Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Mate Pavic (2), Croatia, 2-6, 7-5, 10-4.

Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Latisha Chan (4), Taiwan, def. Fabrice Martin, France, and Raquel Atawo, United States, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 10-3.

US needs OT to top Turkey in World Cup

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

SHANGHAI — In the ultimate moments, everything hinged on free throws.

Turkey missed them.

The U.S. made them.

And that is how the Americans escaped what would have been a massive World Cup upset. Khris Middleton's two foul shots with 2.1 seconds left in overtime capped a wild finish to a wild game, as the U.S. held off Turkey 93-92 in a Group E game on Tuesday night — a contest that the underdogs simply gave away in the final moments.

"It was a heck of a game," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "As we all know, it was anybody's game. We will accept the win."

The U.S. wasted a 15-point lead in the first half, a 9-second trail until the final moments of regulation, needed two free throws from Jayson Tatum with one-tenth of a second left just to get into overtime, came back from five points down in the extra session and — if all that wasn't enough — needed Turkey to go for-4 from the foul line in the last 9 seconds.

It means a lot. It means a lot, man," U.S. guard Kemba Walker said.

Dogus Balbay missed a pair following an intentional foul with the U.S. down one, and Cedi Osman missed two more about a second later. Those misses by Osman set up the last U.S. possession, one where Tatum controlled a rebound, brought the ball down and found Middleton for a drive to the rim. Tatum went down, spraining his left ankle on the play.

The U.S. didn't go down with him.

Middleton made both, Ersan Ilyasova missed a jumper for Turkey as time expired and the U.S. survived.

"It really hurts," Turkey's Furkan Korkmaz said. "I think it was in our hands — not their hands."

Middleton led the U.S. with 15 points. Walker, who single-handedly accounted for the rally during the last five, scored 14. Tatum finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Ilyasova led Turkey with 23 points. Melih Mahmutoğlu had 18, Furkan Korkmaz scored 16 and Osman added 15 for Turkey — which was within a hair of one of the biggest wins in its basketball history, on a night when it seemed like all 18,000 whistling and hooting fans at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center were in their favor.

"I need mental strength to overcome this," Turkey coach Uluk Sarica said.

The Americans have now won 21 consecutive World Cup games, extending the record for any nation at FIBA's signature event.

NFL



ROGER STEINMAN, ABOVE, AND MICHAEL AINSWORTH, BELOW/AP

Dallas Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett, above right, and quarterback Dak Prescott, above left, might have to face the New York Giants in the season opener without running back Ezekiel Elliott, below.

Elliott still holding out as game week arrives

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Ezekiel Elliott's holdout wasn't a topic when Jason Garrett addressed the Dallas Cowboys for the first time at training camp in California, or at least that's what the coach says.

Now that the Cowboys have held their first practice in preparation for the opener against the New York Giants at home Sunday and Elliott still isn't around, Garrett says the approach hasn't changed. "Again, we're just focused on our football team now," Garrett said Monday on the fourth straight Elliott-related question to start his daily meeting with reporters. "We're going to practice at 10:45. It will be an hour and 15 minutes and we're going to go out and practice as well as we can. That's really where our attention is."

Similar questions could have been asked before any of the 15 practices in Oxnard, or the five at the team's facility in Frisco, and Garrett's answer would have been about the same.

But there's no doubting an increasing urgency, or the growing possibility that even if the sides reach a deal in the contract stalemate this week, it might not be in time for Elliott to contribute against the first two NFC East rivals to open the season (Washington is the second).

The two-time rushing champion missing all of the preseason wasn't a huge deal because Elliott didn't play a single snap in the exhibitions last year either. Plus, the weekend before the opener did bring word that the sides were talking and perhaps getting closer to an agreement.

It's also worth noting that Monday's practice was a bonus session after players had the weekend off following the preseason finale. The regular-season routine kicks in now, with Tuesday off before what will normally be the first full practice Wednesday.

If Elliott and the Cowboys haven't worked out their differences by then, the chances of him playing Week 1 drop considerably. The fourth overall pick from the 2016 draft has two years left on his rookie deal, at \$3.9 million this season and \$9.1 million in 2020.

The former Ohio State star wants to be the NFL's highest-paid back a year after Todd Gurley of the Los



Angeles Rams set the standard with a \$57.5 million, four-year contract with \$45 million guaranteed.

Judging by the reaction in the locker room, Elliott's teammates were still behind him on the 39th day of his holdout.

"He's not just a teammate, he's family," offensive lineman La'el Collins said. "Having that kind of guy around, that personality, it brings everybody up. I don't know another guy with as strong a look in his eyes as Zeke. You feed off that."

Rookie Tony Pollard, a fourth-round pick out of Memphis, had a strong preseason and is set to be the starter if Elliott doesn't show up. Alfred Morris, the primary replacement under Elliott's six-game suspension two years ago, is the backup after rejoining Dallas early in camp.

"We're going to have to play with what we've got," right guard Zack Martin, a Pro Bowler each of his first five seasons, said last week. "And what we've got is a damn good back in Tony Pollard. Obviously you'd want him out here, but we're preparing to get ready for Week 1."

Owner and general manager Jerry Jones has taken an increasingly hardline stance publicly on Elliott's absence. It started with a light-hearted "Zeke who?" response to a reporter's question after another strong showing by Pollard in the second preseason game in Hawaii.

More: There's no time off for fortysomethings

FROM BACK PAGE

nights out, could be drinking, it could be food. Whatever you decide is going to benefit you in your journey, I've had mine. And again, I know guys that aren't playing now ... household names back when I was coming out of college and I'm still here doing it."

The NFL isn't exclusively for the young. From fortysomethings Tom Brady and Adam Vinatieri to those nearing a fourth decade (Eli Manning, Philip Rivers and Terrell Suggs), there's still a place for the aged in football. Sticking around the NFL long enough to celebrate big birthdays requires plenty of skill along with sacrifice, the right mindset, and a commitment that never ends.

Wake, who's also been a personal trainer, does what he told clients wanting to get in shape to do. He eats lean meats and vegetables, avoiding fried food, processed food, candy, chips and cheese. The menu doesn't change once the season ends, an approach the five-time Pro Bowl linebacker has followed for at least the past 13 years.

It's simply a smarter business model for the man who spent a year as a mortgage broker after being cut as a then-rookie free agent by the New York Giants in 2005.

"I'm going to choose long term over the here and now, delayed gratification, all those things," Wake said.

Eating better has helped Los Angeles Rams left tackle Andrew Whitworth, who turns 38 on Dec. 12, going into his 14th season. He also sleeps better than during his early years with Cincinnati.

"I probably sleep less, but I at least get quality sleep," Whitworth said. "I tailor my schedule way more than I used to when I was young. Offseason, too. I don't really take any break at all. I just kind of continuously work out year-round."

Celebrating a 40th birthday in the NFL isn't easy. An Associated Press survey in January found the average amount of playing experience on an NFL roster had shrunk from 4.6 to 4.3 years between 2005 and 2018. Quarterback, as always, remains the position where experience is most valued, with the average experience rising from nearly 4.8 years to 5.8 years between 2005 and 2018 — in large part due to the current crop at that position.

Brady turned 42 last month and is going into his 20th season, while Drew Brees will become the 21st quarterback 40 or older ever in the NFL this season. The Patriots quarterback, who abstains from alcohol, detailed his diet and exercise approach in "The TB12 Method" in 2017, a diet that has the six-time Super Bowl champ believing he can play until he's 45. Brees, who turned 40 in January, follows his own regimen for sleeping, eating, training and recovery.

Saints coach Sean Payton says today's players know so much more about health and nutrition.

"When you're seeing players play later in their career at the level that they're playing, we've come up a lot further along than we would have been 20 years ago," Payton said. "All the things that he does relative to preparing for a season that go unnoticed — there's so much that goes into it. He's in great physical shape. He spends year-round on training, so it's not just take the summer off. ... There's a lot that goes into what you're seeing on the field."

This season will be the 16th for Manning (38), Rivers of the Chargers, who turns 38 in December, and Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger (37). Rivers says he still feels good both physically and mentally. Young teammates help a bunch.

"They keep you energized and excited and fired up, so it's been fun," Rivers said. "I've really enjoyed not only the young, young guys, the guys born in late '98 when I was in high school, but the guys that are the six-, seven-, eight-year guys. The Keenans (Allen) and all those guys that you've gotten to see be rookies and now be All-Pro players. So it's been a lot of fun."

Kicker is the second-best position to play and be in the NFL at 40 or older. Vinatieri is one of 16 kickers to play at 40 or older in league history. He turns 47 on Dec. 28 and is poised to become the third-oldest player in the NFL after only George Blanda and Morten Andersen at the end of this season. Both of them are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Vinatieri has learned one thing in becoming the league's career scoring leader over 23 seasons. "There are no guarantees, and when you get to my age, you're absolutely right, your days are numbered," Vinatieri said.

AP national writer Eddie Pells and AP sports writers Michael Marot, Greg Beacham, Joe Reedy and Brett Martel contributed to this story.



GREGORY BULL/AP

Saints quarterback Drew Brees will turn 40 during the season.

NFL

AFC South preview

Luck's retirement creates opening

By TERESA M. WALKER

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The popular pick to win the AFC South all offseason had been Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts.

Then Luck retired.

That threw the door wide open in the AFC South, the only division with winning records for three teams last season.

The Colts quarterback heard boos as he walked away from the field, then walked to a podium and made the surprise decision official. The oft-injured star is done at age 29.

The endless barrage of injuries stripped away his joy for the game and prompted him to walk away so he could enjoy the life he wants.

"There's no doubt when he hears him talk about the cycle of pain and injury and rehab, you can hear that," coach Frank Reich said. "There's a saying in football that everyone knows and everybody lives by: it's next man up. And even though this situation is unique, no one is exempt."

That task now falls to Jacoby Brissett, a fourth-year player whom the Colts acquired two years ago. He went 4-11 as a starter in the 2017 season.

Defending AFC South champ Houston has Deshaun Watson and DeAndre Hopkins along with J.J. Watt back healthy and in his prime. The Titans lost their play-off spot to the Colts in the regu-

lar-season game with Marcus Mariota out, and they protected themselves by upgrading their backup spot. Even Jacksonville has high hopes with Nick Foles now at quarterback; the Jaguars are coming off a miserable 5-11 season after playing in the AFC championship game in 2017.

Some things to know about the AFC South:

High expectations

Indy has bulked up its roster around Luck at first, and now Brissett. The Colts can lean on second-year coach Frank Reich and an improved Brissett. All-Pro guard Quenton Nelson solidified an offensive line that allowed the NFL's fewest sacks (18). The Colts have two Pro Bowl tight ends in Eric Ebron and T.J. Hilton, and running back Marlon Mack, who nearly cracked the 1,000-yard mark despite missing four games.

All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard led the league in tackles as a rookie, and a secondary that has long been a weakness now appears to be a strength. Both Nelson and Leonard achieved such status as rookies.

Defending champs

The Texans are without a general manager while coach Bill O'Brien works to improve an 11-6 record and find a way to win in the postseason after Indianapolis



ORLIN WAGNER/AP

Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota has yet to play a full 16-game season in the NFL and missed three starts last season, including the regular-season finale with a playoff berth on the line.

lis beat Houston on its own field. O'Brien gambled after the pre-season ended, trading away two first-round picks to Miami for a package led by left tackle Laremy Tuntua.

That was after signing veteran Matt Kalil and drafting Tytus Howard in the first round didn't seem a good enough fix to protect Watson after allowing the most sacks in the NFL last season (62).

Hopkins is coming off a career-best 1,572 yards receiving, second best in the NFL. Watt often looked like a three-time Defensive Player of the Year last season, but the Texans gave up on defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, trading him to Seattle. The Texans also revamped half their starting secondary after losing safety Tyrann Mathieu and Kareem Jackson to free agency.

Titans' time

Tennessee has surrounded Mariota with the most offensive talent he has had since being drafted No. 2 overall in 2015, but the Titans are letting him earn a contract extension after missing three starts in 2018. With three straight 9-7 seasons, the Titans are tied for fifth best in the NFL in that stretch, but with only one playoff berth to show for it. They want much more after signing wide receiver Adam Humphries and left guard Rodger Saffold to free agency and drafting receiver A.J. Brown.

Mariota is among at least 14 Titans, including seven starters, in the final year of their deals. They also have coordinator Dean Pees back for a second season with a unit that was the NFL's third-stringest scoring defense.

Foles to the rescue

The Jaguars believe signing the MVP of the 2018 Super Bowl is the key to fixing a team that finished last in the division for the second time in three years while playing for the AFC championship in between. They gave Foles a four-year, \$88 million contract and paired him with former Eagles quarterback coach John DeFilippo as his coordinator. If they get the quarterback who won four playoff games in the past two seasons, that could be enough to revive the Jaguars with their strong defense.

They also need running back Leonard Fournette to return to form in a make-or-break season, and left tackle Cam Robinson to heal quickly after starting on the physically unable to perform list.

Predicted order of finish: Titans, Texans, Colts, Jaguars.

Team capsules

Tennessee Titans

New faces: OLB Cameron Wake, LG Rodger Saffold, QB Ryan Tannehill, WR Adam Humphries, DT Javon Simon, WR A.J. Brown, DE Brent Urban, DE Amari Hodge, G Nate Davis, TE coach Todd Downing.

Key losses: OLB Brian Orakpo, OLB Derrick Morgan, OC Matt LaFleur, LG Quinton Spain, RG Josh Kline, QB Blake Gabbert.

Strengths: Coordinator Dean Pees' return for second straight season gives defense chance to improve on 2018 when Titans ranked No. 3 in fewest points allowed and sixth defending pass. Secondary returns all four starters and LB Rashan Evans, first-round pick in 2018, is poised for breakout after hamstring issue slowed rookie season. Return of three-time Pro Bowl TE Delanie Walker along with additions of Humphries and Brown surrounds QB Marcus Mariota with most help he's had yet.

Weaknesses: Mariota's health and whether he can earn new contract will linger all season, and Tannehill's presence already has started speculation of how long Mariota starts. Four-game suspension of three-time Pro Bowl LT Taylor Lewin coincides with three of first four games on road. Titans are also third fewest passes in NFL in 2018.

Expectations: Titans are popular pick to finish last in AFC South despite going 9-7 each of past three years and being one win shy of second straight playoff berth last season. Second-year coach Mike Vrabel has been pushing Titans to go from good to great, and new OC Arthur Smith has tried to make offense as friendly to quarterbacks as possible. Mariota is among at least 14 players in contract year.

Houston Texans

New faces: OTs Laremy Tuntua, Tytus Howard, Max Schappert, WR Kenny Stills, DE Barkevious Mingo, OLB Jacob Martin, RB Duke Johnson and Carlos Hyde, DE S Tashaun Gipson, CBs Brian Boldy-Calhoun, Bradley Roby, Lonnie Johnson, Jr. and Keion Crossen, QB AJ McCarron, TE Kahale Warring.

Key losses: GM Brian Gaine, DE Jadeveon Clowney, CB's Kareem Jackson, S Tyrann Mathieu, TE Ryan Griffin, CB Kevin Johnson, WR Damarious Thomas, S Andre Hal, RB Lamar Miller, OLB Julien Davenport and Martin Rankin, CB Johnson Bademosi.

Strengths: QB Deshaun Watson started every game last year in second season and put up big numbers despite being sacked NFL-leading 62 times. Now that Texans added franchise left tackle Laremy Tuntua in trade with Miami and got OL Tytus Howard in first round of draft, Watson and offense featuring star receiver DeAndre Hopkins should be one of most dynamic in league. To do that they'll need Johnson and Hyde to step up and fill void left by Miller's knee injury.

Weaknesses: The loss of disgruntled Clowney, who was traded to Seattle, big blow to front featuring J.J. Watt that was strong strength in league last season. Without his presence up front, there will be more pressure on secondary that has questions after team left Mathieu and veteran Jackson go in free agency.

Expectations: Texans made playoffs for third time in four seasons last year, but coach Bill O'Brien, who will also serve as GM this year, needs to do more than simply make postseason. Watson and offense should improve behind stronger line. And if defense can overcome loss of Clowney, Texans could be much better than last season.

Indianapolis Colts

New faces: DE Justin Houston, WRs Devin Funchess and Parris Campbell, CB Rock Ya-Sin, senior offensive assistant coach Howard Mudd.

Key losses: QB Andrew Luck, OL Matt Staunton, OL coaches Dave DeGuglielmo and Bobby Johnson, S Mike Mitchell, LB Najee Goode, DT Al Woods, TE Ryan Hewitt, WRs Ryan Grant and Dontrelle Inman.

Strengths: Everything changed when Luck announced he was retiring at 29. Colts offensive line went from worst to first — in sacks allowed — last season and could be better with same starters for second straight season. Addition of Funchess gives Jacoby Brissett another big threat in red zone and there's deep pool of talented receivers. Brissett also has made big strides since starting 15 games in 2017. All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard led league in tackles as rookie and expects to exceed that total in 2019.

Weaknesses: Injuries already have taken toll, and not just to Luck. Kicker Adam Vinatieri missed most of training camp with knee injury. All-Pro left guard Quenton Nelson has been slowed by ankle injury and WR Daurice Fountain has been lost for season with dislocated and fractured left ankle. Linebackers are young and depth could be problem.

Expectations: Even without Luck, this season shouldn't be repeat of 2017 debacle. Why? Supporting cast is significantly stronger. Colts have top-five offensive line, deep pool of talented receivers, two Pro Bowl tight ends and solid defense. Brissett has some valued experience. Defense is much better, too. Addition of Houston should strengthen pass rush. And after finishing 11th overall last season, defense appears primed to finish in top 10.

Jacksonville Jaguars

New faces: QB Nick Foles, WR Chris Conley, OT Jawaan Taylor, OT Cedric Ogbuehi, TE Geoff Swaim, TE Josh Allen, RB Alfred Blue, WR Terrell Pryor, DE Josh Allen, LB Quincy Williams, LB Ramik Wilson, LB Najee Goode.

Key losses: OT Jeremy Parnell, RB T.J. Yeldon, DT Malik Jackson, LB Terrell Smith, S Tashaun Gipson, S Barry Church, DE Dante Fowler, QB Blake Bortles.

Strengths: Defense is among best in league, with loads of talent up front and arguably NFL's top cornerback tandem. Calais Campbell, Yannick Ngakoue and rookie Josh Allen should provide plenty of pressure on opposing quarterbacks, while Marcell Darius, Aky Jones and Taven Bryan clog up middle. Jamal Ramsey and A.J. Bouye are elite in coverage, but how good defense can be likely rests with rookie linebacker Quincy Williams and young safeties Ronnie Harrison and Jarrod Wilson.

Weaknesses: Offensive line was mess in 2018, with left tackle Cam Robinson, left guard Andrew Norwell and center Brandon Linder ending up on injured reserve and missing combined 25 games. All three are healthy now, but it remains to be seen whether they can stay on field, protect Foles and create enough space for bruising running back Leonard Fournette.

Expectations: Jaguars believe last year — they lost 10 of 12 to end season — was fluke caused by mounting injuries on offense and poor quarterback play. They insist it won't happen again and believe Foles replacing Bortles will be key to becoming more consistent on offense. It would be tough not to be better considering Jacksonville ranked 27th in yards and 31st in points.

—Capsules by Associated Press

NFL

AFC North preview

Browns join the fray in wide-open division

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

PBALTIMORE lacing the order of finish in the AFC North is as difficult as getting a grip on a wet, bouncing football.

The division features two new coaches, a pair of gritty second-year quarterbacks, a traditional powerhouse on the rebound, and an unlikely contender that hasn't reached the playoffs since 2002.

Yes, the Cleveland Browns — two years removed from an infamous 0-16 season — are most certainly in the mix to unseat the defending AFC North champion Baltimore Ravens and capture the division crown for the first time.

"We are not backing down from anybody," said wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., obtained in an offseason trade with the Giants. "I love that mentality. That is all I have ever known."

The Browns sure know a lot about losing, but that changed last season when then-rookie quarterback Baker Mayfield helped Cleveland win five of its last seven games. New coach Freddie Kitchens hopes to extend that success in a division once dominated by the Pittsburgh Steelers, who missed the playoffs and are now in full bounce-back mode.

About the closest thing to a sure bet is that Cincinnati will again finish last. The Bengals are starting anew under coach Zac Taylor.

Some things to know about the AFC North:

Counting on Jackson

The Ravens won last year with



GAIL BURTON/AP

Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson leaps over the Packers' Jaire Alexander. Baltimore won last year mostly on the legs of their rookie quarterback, who will have to throw more often this season.

defense and mostly the legs of rookie quarterback Lamar Jackson, who ran for 695 yards.

Jackson led Baltimore to a 6-1 finish before being bottled up by the Los Angeles Chargers in the playoffs. For the Ravens to reach the postseason in Jackson's second season, the 2016 Heisman Trophy winner will have to show the opposition he's as much a threat to pass as run.

The addition of free-agent run-

ning back Mark Ingram should enhance a run-first attack that worked well in 2018, and top draft pick Marquise Brown provides Jackson a speedy deep option.

The defense, which finished No. 1 in the NFL last season, lost linebackers C.J. Mosley, Terrell Suggs and Za'Darius Smith. But the Ravens added safety Eric Thomas, perhaps the most notable pickup by first-year general manager Eric DeCosta.

It's about time

Believe the hype: The Browns are loaded with talent, and a legitimate playoff contender.

Finally.

After being 1-15 in 2016 and 0-16 in 2017, Cleveland improved to 7-8-1 last year. Now the Browns appear poised to end the NFL's longest postseason drought.

Mayfield, who began his pro career sitting behind Tyrod Taylor, broke Peyton Manning's NFL rookie record with 27 touchdown passes, and with Beckham and Jarvis Landry as targets, he could go well beyond that TD total in 2019.

There is immediate pressure on Kitchens, who began last season as running backs coach before an impressive run as interim offensive coordinator landed him the top gig. Kitchens has never been a head coach before at any level, but his Southern charm and outgoing personality have allowed him to connect with his players.

Defensive line could be Cleveland's greatest strength, and Pro Bowl end Myles Garrett might be on the verge of becoming the league's most unstoppable force.

Steel resolve

Pittsburgh enters 2019 without Antonio Brown, who took his seemingly endless drama and his NFL record streak of seasons with at least 100 receptions to Oakland. But there are the same old expectations following an ugly late-season collapse that forced the Steelers to miss the playoffs for the first time in five years.

Brown's departure led to a quieter training camp, one that was met with tragedy when wide

receivers coach Darryl Drake died of a heart attack on Aug. 11. The group Drake left behind has adopted one of his pet phrases — "Shut Out The Noise" — as its unofficial motto for 2019.

It's fitting. The Steelers would prefer their play — and not their mouths — do the talking.

JuJu Smith-Schuster steps in as Ben Roethlisberger's top target, and the defense is hoping first-round pick Devin Bush can provide the kind of spark at inside linebacker the team has lacked since Ryan Shazier suffered a spinal cord injury in December 2017.

Coach Mike Tomlin's seat isn't hot, but being a contender might not be good enough.

Starting over

After a 4-1 start last season, Cincinnati finished last for the first time since 2010.

Taylor will be working with a set of mostly inexperienced coordinators. The main focus is all the change: Taylor plans to call plays in addition to being a first-time head coach.

The offense was among the league's worst for the second straight season, with quarterback Andy Dalton and receiver A.J. Green missing significant time with injuries.

Oh, and the defense was among the worst in franchise history.

This year hasn't started much better. Green tore ligaments in his left ankle during the first training camp practice, had surgery and will miss the start of the season. First-round pick, Jonah Williams has hurt his shoulder and will miss the entire season.

Predicted order of finish: Steelers, Browns, Ravens, Bengals.

Team capsules

Pittsburgh Steelers

New faces: LB Devin Bush, WR Dontae Moncrief, CB Steven Nelson, LB Mark Barron, WR Dontae Johnson, CB James Ryan, RB Ben Snell Jr., WR Vegas.

Key losses: WR Antonio Brown, OL coach Mike Munchak, RT Marcus Gilbert, LB L.J. Fort.

Strengths: Brown might be gone after early second-setting seasons but Steelers believe offense can keep on humming. Much will depend on WR JuJu Smith-Schuster handling No. 1 duties, and second-year WR James Washington proving rebound preseason was no fluke. Improved run/pass balance would help. RB James Conner reached Pro Bowl last season but also missed time due to injuries. Defense has led NFL in sacks each of last two seasons, and OLB T.J. Watt has shown he's nearly as effective as older brother J.J. at disrupting opposing offenses.

Weaknesses: All those sacks, however, didn't translate to turnover. Steelers had just 15 takeaways in 2018, one of major reasons behind 2-4 slide into end season that finished with Pittsburgh on outside of playoffs for first time since 2013. Pittsburgh splurged in free agency, bringing in Nelson from Kansas City and signing Barron to provide some veteran leadership at inside linebacker.

Expectations: While expectations outside of Pittsburgh have been lowered — five AFC teams have better odds to reach Super Bowl, according to Vegas odds-makers — "the standard remains the standard" to borrow one of coach Mike Tomlin's favorite phrases. Offense should be productive but Pittsburgh's season will likely depend on defense taking significant step forward.

Cleveland Browns

New faces: Coach Freddie Kitchens, offensive coordinator Todd Monken, defensive coordinator Steve Wilks, WR Odell Beckham Jr., RB Kareem Hunt, DE Olivier Vernon, DT Sheldon Richardson, S Jermaine Whitehead, S Morgan Burnett, TE Demetrius Harris, G Eric Kush, WR Jaelen Strong, rookie CB Greedy Williams, rookie LB Mack Wilson.

Key losses: RB Duke Johnson, G Kevin Zeitler, LB Jamie Collins, DE Emmanuel Ogbah, QB Tyrod Taylor.

Strengths: Beckham's arrival and pairing with Jarvis Landry gives Cleveland a premier pass-catching duo. Landry's most comfortable playing in slot and Beckham's ability to stretch defenses deep will open up things underneath for quarterback Baker Mayfield. Cleveland's defensive line, led by Pro Bowl end Myles Garrett (13 1/2 sacks), could wreak havoc.

Weaknesses: Tackling was major issue last season and while active, linebackers Christian Kirksey and Joe Schobert are not prototypical run stuffers. Wilks favors 4-2-5 scheme, which will put emphasis on linebackers' ability to get from sideline to sideline and on pass coverage. Wilson and fellow rookie Sione Takitaki will likely be in rotation.

Expectations: Through roof, if FirstEnergy Stadium had one. Mayfield has brought swagger and hope to franchise that could finally end two decades of losing and general defunction. Browns haven't been in play offs since 2002, league's longest current drought. With abundance of talent, Kitchens will be under pressure to deliver quickly and must hope owners De and Jimmy Haslam display promised patience. Beckham seems reborn after drama-filled days in New York.

Baltimore Ravens

New faces: S Earl Thomas, RB Mark Ingram, WR Seth Roberts, WR Michael Floyd, CB Justin Bethel, WR Marquise Brown, WR Miles Boykin, RB Justice Hill, offensive coordinator Greg Roman, GM Eric DeCosta.

Key losses: LB Terrell Suggs, LB C.J. Mosley, LB Za'Darius Smith, WR John Brown, WR Michael Crabtree, S Eric Weddle, TE Maxx Williams, GM Ozzie Newsome.

Strengths: NFL's top-ranked defense remains force, despite loss of Mosley and pass rushers Suggs and Smith. Patrick Onwuasor appears to be adequate replacement for Mosley at MLB and defensive coordinator Don Martindale will find way to keep pressure on opposing quarterback. Best unit is secondary, led by Thomas and featuring CBs Marlon Humphrey, Brandon Carr and Jimmy Smith.

Weaknesses: Offensive line is thin and lacks star power beyond RG Marshall Yanda and LT Ronnie Stanley. Second-year tackle Orlando Brown Jr. played well last season, but left guard position is shaky, and center Matt Skura has started only one season. It's paramount for Ravens to protect QB Lamar Jackson, whether he runs or throws.

Expectations: Ravens have chance of successfully defending AFC North title and reaching playoffs. For that to happen, Jackson must be better passer than last year and Ingram needs to grind out yardage in Roman's run-oriented attack. Fortunately, if possession stays there's K Justin Tucker to ring up points from 50-55 yards. Defense may not be No. 1 again, but Martindale will probably keep it at high level.

Cincinnati Bengals

New faces: Coach Zac Taylor, offensive coordinator Brian Callahan, defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo, LG John Jerry, QB Ryan Miller, CB B.W. Webber.

Key losses: Coach Marvin Lewis, RT Jonah Williams (season-ending injury), LG Clint Boling, LB Vontaze Burfitt, LB Vincent Rey, DE Michael Johnson, TE Tyler Kroft.

Strengths: Joe Mixon and Giovanni Bernard form one of better running back tandems in the league. Mixon led AFC in rushing last season with 1,168 yards. When A.J. Green returns from ankle surgery, Bengals will have diverse group of receivers for Andy Dalton, who enters pivotal season with new head coach. Defensive line is deep and anchored by end Carlos Dunlap and tackle Gene Atkins.

Weaknesses: Offensive line is again work in progress that could undermine everything. Bengals drafted Williams in first round to start at left tackle, but shoulder injury will sideline him for season. Boling, starting left guard for last seven years, retired shortly before start of camp because of blood clot. Center Billy Price has been limited by foot injury. Linebacker position also is huge concern.

Expectations: It'll be transitional season in Cincinnati with new coaching staff and roster that finished last in AFC North. Bengals haven't finished last in consecutive seasons since 2001, when they lost for last in AFC Central, and 2002, when they were alone at bottom of AFC North. They still haven't won playoff game since 1990 season. There's little reason to think that will change in Taylor's first season as NFL head coach.

—Capsules by Associated Press

SPORTS



Irish win opener

No. 9 Notre Dame slowly pulls away from Louisville » College football, Page 25

NFL



Above: Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri, left, and Patriots quarterback Tom Brady speak at midfield after their game on Oct. 4, 2018, in Foxborough, Mass. Vinatieri and Brady are still going strong despite being over 40 years old. Right: Titans linebacker Cameron Wake, 37, follows a special diet and offseason training regimen to stay fit.

STEVEN SENNE, ABOVE, AND MARK HUMPHREY, RIGHT/AP

Making sacrifices

To play past 40, it takes more than skill

By TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

TNASHVILLE, Tenn. Tennessee Titans linebacker Cameron Wake knows he's not the best friend, drinking buddy or wing man.

Forget asking the Tennessee Titans linebacker to grab a cheeseburger altogether. Don't hand him a bag of chips or fries for a quick snack, either. He's been eating cleanly for so

many years that tuna with sunflower seeds sounds so good Wake can imagine wanting that meal even in retirement.

"It's a decision you have to make

to say, 'I decide to do this and give up that,'" said Wake, now 37 and going into his 11th NFL season. "Could be

SEE MORE ON PAGE 29

Inside:

- AFC North preview, team capsules, Page 31
- AFC South preview, team capsules, Page 30



Defending champ Osaka falls to Bencic » US Open, Page 28

